

<p>1 Tuesday, 16 October 2018</p> <p>2 (10.00 am)</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to</p> <p>4 today's hearing.</p> <p>5 We are going to continue hearing evidence from those</p> <p>6 who were inside the tower at the time of the fire, in</p> <p>7 particular flat 113.</p> <p>8 Yes, Mr Rawat.</p> <p>9 MR RAWAT: Good morning, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>10 May I call Omar Alhajali.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>12 OMAR ALHAJALI (sworn)</p> <p>13 Questions by MR RAWAT</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much. Do sit down</p> <p>15 and make yourself comfortable.</p> <p>16 Yes, Mr Rawat.</p> <p>17 MR RAWAT: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>18 Good morning.</p> <p>19 <b>A. Good morning, thank you.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Could you give the inquiry your full name, please.</p> <p>21 <b>A. It's Omar Alhajali.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Mr Alhajali, thank you very much for coming to give</p> <p>23 evidence today. It's very much appreciated.</p> <p>24 As you'll I hope already know, the majority of my</p> <p>25 questions are going to focus on the night of the fire.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 Q. Can you confirm that the contents of the statement are</p> <p>2 true?</p> <p>3 <b>A. In the best of my knowledge, it is, yes. However, in</b></p> <p>4 <b>some places just I wasn't sure about the location at</b></p> <p>5 <b>flat 113, whether it was the living room or the bedroom.</b></p> <p>6 <b>Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. We will come to events in flat 113 in due course, and</p> <p>8 when we do, I will clarify with you what your</p> <p>9 recollection is of where you were at a particular point</p> <p>10 in time.</p> <p>11 <b>A. All right.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>13 There's one exhibit to that statement, and we need</p> <p>14 to put that in the record. It's your exhibit OM/1,</p> <p>15 which is at IWS00000780.</p> <p>16 Mr Alhajali, you also made a second witness</p> <p>17 statement to the inquiry. Can we have that up on the</p> <p>18 screen now, please. It's IWS00001052. That's the first</p> <p>19 page of that second statement.</p> <p>20 If we go to page 4, please, whilst it's not dated,</p> <p>21 it does have a signature.</p> <p>22 Can you confirm that that is your signature?</p> <p>23 <b>A. It is, yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Are the contents of that second witness statement true?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes, it is.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 <b>A. Mm-hm.</b></p> <p>2 Q. If you need a break at any time, please let me know, and</p> <p>3 we will stop.</p> <p>4 I'm going to try to keep my questions short and</p> <p>5 straightforward, but if I do ask you a question that you</p> <p>6 don't understand, please don't hesitate to tell me and</p> <p>7 I'll try to put the question in a different way.</p> <p>8 <b>A. Thank you.</b></p> <p>9 Q. The first thing we need to do is to formally put your</p> <p>10 statements to the inquiry into the record, and can we</p> <p>11 have IWS00000781, please.</p> <p>12 If I explain, this is the first page of your</p> <p>13 statement to the inquiry. As we go through your</p> <p>14 evidence, it will come up on the screen that's in front</p> <p>15 of you, but if you're more comfortable with paper, you</p> <p>16 should find a file that's in front of you that has that</p> <p>17 statement at tab 1.</p> <p>18 Can we go to page 17 of the statement, please.</p> <p>19 We can see there at the bottom that there's the</p> <p>20 date, 27 June 2018, and a signature.</p> <p>21 Can you confirm that that is your signature?</p> <p>22 <b>A. It is.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Have you had an opportunity to go through the statement</p> <p>24 recently?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes, I did.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, for the record, there are no</p> <p>2 exhibits to the supplementary statement.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, thank you.</p> <p>4 MR RAWAT: If we just begin, please, with a little bit of</p> <p>5 background.</p> <p>6 In June 2017, it's right, isn't it, that you were</p> <p>7 living in flat 112 on the 14th floor of Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. When did you move into that flat?</p> <p>10 <b>A. 5 September ... I think 2017. So it's actually a year</b></p> <p>11 <b>before the fire, so 2017 --</b></p> <p>12 Q. September 2016?</p> <p>13 <b>A. 2016, 2016, sorry, yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>15 In June 2017, who were you sharing the flat with?</p> <p>16 <b>A. With my brother Mohammad and my friend Mahmoud Al-Karad.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Is it right that you and Mohammad also had a brother</p> <p>18 Hashem --</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. -- who was living in London?</p> <p>21 <b>A. He was living in London with his friends, yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Can we go just to page 3 of your first statement,</p> <p>23 please, so IWS00000781, page 3, and just pick it up at</p> <p>24 paragraph 8.</p> <p>25 What were your relations like with your neighbours</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 on floor 14 before the night of the fire?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Actually, I didn't know them that much. I used to say</b></p> <p>3 <b>hi to them if I see them next to my flat or in the</b></p> <p>4 <b>lifts. So, yeah, I just knew my neighbour -- who they</b></p> <p>5 <b>are on the same floor.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Did you know their names?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No, that time, no, I didn't. Yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. But you knew them to recognise them as people who lived</p> <p>9 on the same floor?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes, because we lived on the same floor, yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Could we look at your exhibit to that statement. If we</p> <p>12 go to IWS00000780, page 2.</p> <p>13 This is the plan of your home, flat 112; is that</p> <p>14 right?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. There's quite a few numbers on it, but --</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. -- if we look in the bottom left-hand corner, I think</p> <p>19 that's where the two bedrooms were?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Mm-hm.</b></p> <p>21 Q. One bedroom had two beds in it and the other one had one</p> <p>22 bed in it; is that right?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Who had which bedroom in June 2017?</p> <p>25 <b>A. So I had the bedroom with the double bed.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 Could I just take you back to page 1 of your first</p> <p>2 statement to the inquiry, and just take a look at</p> <p>3 paragraph 3, please, if that could be expanded.</p> <p>4 In that paragraph, you discuss problems with windows</p> <p>5 on the north-east side of the flat --</p> <p>6 <b>A. Mm-hm.</b></p> <p>7 Q. -- which had air coming through. We can go back to your</p> <p>8 plan if you need to, but which windows are you referring</p> <p>9 to?</p> <p>10 <b>A. The one in the living room. Shall I point that?</b></p> <p>11 Q. Yes, let's go back to your plan. IWS00000780, page 2,</p> <p>12 please.</p> <p>13 <b>A. So it was one of them, here, in the living room,</b></p> <p>14 <b>I think, and the other one, the kitchen one (Indicates).</b></p> <p>15 Q. That's windows on the north-east side of the flat; is</p> <p>16 that right?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I'm not sure about the direction, but, yes, it's these</b></p> <p>18 <b>two windows.</b></p> <p>19 Q. I think we can see at the very top there there's the</p> <p>20 symbol "N" at the top with an arrow pointing north, so</p> <p>21 that may help you.</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>23 Q. What you say is they had air coming through. There were</p> <p>24 tiny spaces around the outside of the window which meant</p> <p>25 that even when the windows were closed, air still came</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 Q. If you want to stand up --</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, do.</p> <p>3 <b>A. This is the one I had, and my brother was in this room</b></p> <p>4 <b>(Indicates).</b></p> <p>5 MR RAWAT: So you were in the bedroom marked 2?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. And your brother and Mahmoud Al-Karad were in the</p> <p>8 bedroom marked 1?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. We see that you have put some crosses on the plan. Is</p> <p>11 that to mark walls that weren't actually there?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes, so the kitchen, it was open plan, so we didn't have</b></p> <p>13 <b>any wall here. And this one, we didn't have it. And</b></p> <p>14 <b>I think it's the same for here as well. We just had</b></p> <p>15 <b>a cabinet here (Indicates).</b></p> <p>16 <b>So, yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. So particularly in terms of the kitchen and the</p> <p>18 lounge --</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. -- it was all open, was it?</p> <p>21 <b>A. It was all open to the living room.</b></p> <p>22 Q. So there wasn't even a sliding door between the kitchen</p> <p>23 and the lounge?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No, nothing.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 inside and you could hear the wind blow. But what you</p> <p>2 also say is that someone then came to fix the window in</p> <p>3 the living room.</p> <p>4 What about the other window, the kitchen window?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I think he -- because I wasn't at home that time when he</b></p> <p>6 <b>came, so my brother told me, but I think he tried to fix</b></p> <p>7 <b>both of them. It wasn't 100 per cent fixed. So it was</b></p> <p>8 <b>better than before but not 100 per cent for both of</b></p> <p>9 <b>them. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. So taking you, then, to June 2017.</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Did you still notice air coming through these two</p> <p>13 windows?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Were there particular times when you would notice that?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Especially when it's windy. When it's windy outside, we</b></p> <p>17 <b>could hear it and we could feel it, yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Taking each window in turn, if we start with the kitchen</p> <p>19 window, was the air coming in at a particular point?</p> <p>20 <b>A. It's just little bit, not that much, but we could hear</b></p> <p>21 <b>the voice because it was tiny space or a gap I think,</b></p> <p>22 <b>yes.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Did it come through in a particular part of the window?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes, it's the outside of the window, the small gap, you</b></p> <p>25 <b>know, when you close the window, on the outside of the</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

1 **window.**  
 2 Q. So is that the frame of the window?  
 3 **A. The frames, yes, actually, yes.**  
 4 Q. What about the living room window, where was the air --  
 5 **A. It's the same place, yes. It's on the left side. If**  
 6 **you're standing on the opposite of the window, it's on**  
 7 **the left side, so the side of the window, yes.**  
 8 MR RAWAT: Thank you.  
 9 I'd like now just to show you a photograph which was  
 10 taken inside the tower and after the fire. But,  
 11 Mr Chairman, it's a photograph of the fire safety notice  
 12 and we've seen that a number of times.  
 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Not particularly disturbing.  
 14 MR RAWAT: Not at all.  
 15 Could we have, please, BLA00002416, please.  
 16 Mr Alhajali, if I could just explain to you, this is  
 17 a photograph of a fire safety notice which was sited at  
 18 the lifts on floor 3.  
 19 **A. Mm-hm.**  
 20 Q. Before June 2017, do you remember seeing a notice like  
 21 this near the lifts on your floor?  
 22 **A. No, I didn't see.**  
 23 Q. Do you remember seeing a notice like this between the  
 24 lifts on the ground floor?  
 25 **A. No.**

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1 Q. So in June 2017, what was your understanding of what  
 2 you, as someone living in the tower, should do if there  
 3 was a fire there?  
 4 **A. I didn't have any idea at that time.**  
 5 Q. Could I now, please, take you just to the events of the  
 6 night themselves, and I'll take you back to page 4 of  
 7 your statement.  
 8 Could we just expand paragraphs 12 to 13.  
 9 In these paragraphs -- I won't read them out -- you  
 10 explain that on the evening of 13 June, you and your  
 11 brother spent that evening with friends and family; is  
 12 that right?  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. Your cousin Aasem drove you both back to the tower, and  
 15 you estimate -- this is in paragraph 13 -- that you got  
 16 back between 11.00 and 11.30 at night.  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. When you got back that evening, can you remember if the  
 19 lights were on in the communal area on your floor?  
 20 **A. It was, yes.**  
 21 MR RAWAT: I want to show you, again, a photograph taken  
 22 inside the tower after the fire.  
 23 Again, Mr Chairman, it's one we've seen before and  
 24 not particularly distressing.  
 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Very well, yes.

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1 MR RAWAT: Could we have, please, BLA00002514.  
 2 We can expand it for you if you need it,  
 3 Mr Alhajali, but we can see obviously the lifts on the  
 4 right side, and then there's a cupboard opposite the  
 5 lifts. Can you see that there are light fixtures in the  
 6 ceiling?  
 7 **A. Yes, I could see that, that time.**  
 8 Q. This is a photograph taken on floor 6, but do you  
 9 remember seeing lights like that in the ceiling of  
 10 floor 14?  
 11 **A. You mean before?**  
 12 Q. Before the fire.  
 13 **A. Yes, I did.**  
 14 Q. If we look at the cupboard door, there's a blue panel.  
 15 I wonder whether we can just expand that a little bit.  
 16 Just a blue circular plaque on the cupboard door.  
 17 It's floor 6, and if you look, there's an arrow.  
 18 There's two arrows pointing in opposite directions, and  
 19 the top arrow points to the directions for flat 31, 32  
 20 and 33.  
 21 If we just go back to the image itself, if we took  
 22 that to floor 14, where you lived, that arrow would say  
 23 flat 111, 112 and 113, wouldn't it?  
 24 **A. It would, yes, but I don't remember seeing it. Yes.**  
 25 Q. If someone on floor 14 were coming out of the lifts, and

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1 the lifts were on the right side, as we see them, where  
 2 would your flat door be, or which direction would  
 3 someone go to get to your flat door?  
 4 **A. If you are leaving the lift, it would be on the right**  
 5 **side, yes.**  
 6 Q. So looking at that photograph --  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. -- does that help you as to how close your flat door  
 9 would have been?  
 10 **A. I think if I'm leaving the lift on here, so my flat**  
 11 **would be this side here (Indicates).**  
 12 Q. Is it just around the corner of that wall that we can  
 13 see on the left-hand side?  
 14 **A. Yes, it is.**  
 15 Q. To get to your flat door, would you have to go past the  
 16 door to the stairwell?  
 17 **A. So, again, if -- yes.**  
 18 Q. If I'm coming out of the lift and I'm going to your flat  
 19 in the direction that you've pointed --  
 20 **A. Yes.**  
 21 Q. -- so that's towards those grilles that we can see, can  
 22 you remember, would I have to walk past --  
 23 **A. Yes.**  
 24 Q. -- the door to the stairwell?  
 25 **A. Yes.**

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<p>1 Q. Let's go back, then, to your first statement and page 4. 2 Just pick it up at the bottom, paragraph 14, please. 3 You explained in your statement, Mr Alhajali, that 4 you didn't go to sleep straight away. You say there 5 that you were speaking to a friend on the phone, and at 6 about 01.00 am in the morning, you heard sounds and you 7 in fact got up and checked out of your bedroom window, 8 didn't you? 9 <b>A. Yes, I did.</b> 10 Q. You've given the time of at about 01.00 am; what do you 11 base the time on? 12 <b>A. Because I was using my phone, so I think that I checked</b> 13 <b>the time that night, yes.</b> 14 Q. If we go to the next page, please, and look at 15 paragraph 15. 16 What you say is that having checked out of your 17 window, you went back to your bed, but then if we pick 18 it up at paragraph 15, you say: 19 "15. After 10 minutes, I heard people shouting." 20 Then your brother Mohammad came into your room and 21 told you that he could smell smoke. 22 <b>A. Mm-hm.</b> 23 Q. Did Mohammad tell you where he could smell the smoke? 24 <b>A. He didn't tell me where, but maybe because he was closer</b> 25 <b>to the front door, so he could smell the smoke before</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 Q. Can you just tell us, when you looked out of the 2 windows, what did you see? 3 <b>A. I saw flames coming from the left side of the window on</b> 4 <b>the bottom. So nearly the 4th or 5th floor, maybe, yes.</b> 5 Q. So you're standing at that window, which is next to the 6 circled number 12. 7 <b>A. Yes.</b> 8 Q. And when you looked out -- 9 <b>A. When I looked out, it was on my left side and the bottom</b> 10 <b>of the tower. So, yes, like that.</b> 11 Q. How were you able to estimate what floor you could see? 12 <b>A. I tried to estimate that time by looking at the flames.</b> 13 <b>So it was or maybe seven or eight floors under me, yes.</b> 14 Q. So some seven or eight floors below you? 15 <b>A. Below me, yes.</b> 16 Q. In terms of what you were actually seeing, can you 17 describe the flames that you saw? 18 <b>A. I remember it was light and blue and green colour, red</b> 19 <b>sometimes, so it wasn't just straight colour, yes.</b> 20 Q. Did the flames that you saw appear to be on the outside 21 of the tower or coming from inside out, into the 22 exterior? 23 <b>A. That time I saw it was outside. I'm not sure if it was</b> 24 <b>coming from inside, yes, but I saw it was outside.</b> 25 Q. In your statement, what you say is that you could smell</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 <b>me.</b> 2 Q. Could you smell smoke yourself at that time? 3 <b>A. When he told me and then I went to the corridor,</b> 4 <b>I started to smell it.</b> 5 Q. So in your bedroom, there wasn't any smoke? 6 <b>A. No, in my bedroom, I didn't at the beginning.</b> 7 Q. What you tell us is that you went to the living 8 room/kitchen area, which we've seen on your plan was 9 open plan, and you looked out of the windows. 10 Could I just go back to your plan, then, 11 IWS00000780, page 2. 12 You're in the bedroom marked 2. 13 <b>A. Yes.</b> 14 Q. You would have gone then to the living room/kitchen 15 area? 16 <b>A. Yes.</b> 17 Q. Which windows did you look out of? 18 <b>A. We started to look from this window here (Indicates) --</b> 19 <b>actually, everywhere, when we started to see the fire --</b> 20 <b>everywhere, all the windows, but then when we saw the</b> 21 <b>fire it was from this window.</b> 22 Q. So that's the most north-easterly window in the living 23 room, and on the plan it's the window next to the 24 circled number 12. 25 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 smoke at this time. 2 <b>A. Mm.</b> 3 Q. Were any of your windows open at this time? 4 <b>A. At that time, no, but we opened them to check then, yes.</b> 5 Q. So in order to see, you had to open your window? 6 <b>A. Yes.</b> 7 Q. I follow. 8 Can you describe what the smell was like? 9 <b>A. I smelled little bit of smoke, not that, you know, much</b> 10 <b>at the beginning. So, yes.</b> 11 Q. Can you describe the smell at all? 12 <b>A. I knew at that time it's a fire smell, so actually</b> 13 <b>I don't remember what kind of smell it was. Yes.</b> 14 Q. Thank you. 15 Let's go back to your statement, please, and we'll 16 look at page 5, so IWS00000781, page 5, and 17 paragraph 16, please. 18 You begin the paragraph by saying: 19 "16. As Mohammad and I were standing at the window 20 looking out we agreed that we needed to leave the tower 21 immediately." 22 Why did you come to that decision? 23 <b>A. Because we saw a fire, so we -- at that time we just</b> 24 <b>thought that we had to leave before the fire came to us.</b> 25 Q. At that time, were you aware of any firefighters being</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

4 (Pages 13 to 16)

1 outside the building or any emergency vehicles outside  
 2 the building?  
 3 **A. Yes, I've seen some firefighters just next to the main**  
 4 **door of the tower, main entrance.**  
 5 Q. What you then did was that you went to the front door  
 6 and you say there was smoke coming from the bottom of  
 7 the front door.  
 8 You've given the time there as about 01.15 am.  
 9 How do you estimate that time?  
 10 **A. I think because it didn't take us longer than that time**  
 11 **between we hear the fire and trying to leave the flat.**  
 12 **Yes. So round 15 minutes maximum.**  
 13 Q. Before we continue, can you just describe what the front  
 14 door of your flat was like?  
 15 **A. Wooden door. It was new, I think, because the owner, he**  
 16 **refurbished the flat, so that's all I know about it,**  
 17 **actually, yes.**  
 18 Q. Do you remember if the door had a letterbox in it?  
 19 **A. I think it had, yes. I'm not really sure about that --**  
 20 **yeah, I'm not sure, but I think it had, yes.**  
 21 Q. Did it have any glass panes in it?  
 22 **A. No.**  
 23 Q. You've described in this paragraph opening the front  
 24 door, and you say:  
 25 "... the communal area was dark, full of smoke and

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1 in complete darkness. You could only see your hand a  
 2 little bit. I could not see the lifts or the staircase.  
 3 I would say it was 80% dark."  
 4 Could you tell if there were any lights on in the  
 5 communal area?  
 6 **A. I couldn't tell because it was dark, so I don't think**  
 7 **I saw a light that time, yes.**  
 8 Q. Can you tell us a little bit more about what the smoke  
 9 that you saw looked like?  
 10 **A. It was thick, but not 100 per cent. So it was very dark**  
 11 **when I opened the door, we couldn't see, and we could**  
 12 **smell it. So it was very scary, and then we closed the**  
 13 **door straight away.**  
 14 Q. Can you describe the smell?  
 15 **A. Actually, that time, like, if you breathe it, you will**  
 16 **not -- I don't know, we stopped breathing when we**  
 17 **started to smell the smoke, so it was thick, I think,**  
 18 **yes. And it was everywhere in the communal area. So we**  
 19 **couldn't see; it was very dark everywhere, yes.**  
 20 Q. Taking it from the floor to the ceiling, did you get any  
 21 sense of how much smoke there was from floor to ceiling?  
 22 **A. No, but it was dark everywhere. Yes.**  
 23 Q. What about the temperature in the communal area at that  
 24 time?  
 25 **A. It wasn't that hot, but when we opened the door, we**

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1 **could feel little bit warm, yes, but not like inside the**  
 2 **flat, no.**  
 3 Q. So was it warmer in the communal area than in your flat?  
 4 **A. Warmer than -- yes, it is.**  
 5 Q. What you then say in your statement was that both you  
 6 and your brother then went into the living room --  
 7 **A. Mm-hm.**  
 8 Q. -- opened two windows on the south-east corner and you  
 9 started shouting for help.  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. Mohammad was also shouting for help from the living room  
 12 windows facing south.  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. At that time, were you opening the windows to call out  
 15 to people?  
 16 **A. Yes, to call out.**  
 17 Q. Did anyone call back or respond to your shouts?  
 18 **A. At the beginning, no, no one even said anything to us.**  
 19 **But later on, they said -- yeah, they said, "Stay where**  
 20 **you are, we are coming".**  
 21 Q. You say "they said"; who was "they"?  
 22 **A. A group of firefighters, but I heard one of them maybe**  
 23 **or two maximum saying that. Yes.**  
 24 Q. When you heard that, being told to stay in your flat,  
 25 did that affect what you decided to do?

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1 **A. I felt much better. I felt that they would be coming.**  
 2 Q. If we go, then, to IWS00000781, page 6, please, and just  
 3 look at paragraph 18.  
 4 You say:  
 5 "18. Mohammad and I started to run around the rooms  
 6 in the flat to look out of the windows to see how far  
 7 the fire was spreading and how quickly it was spreading.  
 8 The only window where we could see the fire from was the  
 9 window in the living room kitchen area on the east side  
 10 of the tower."  
 11 Just so we can be clear -- and I'll go back to your  
 12 plan -- you've told us that it's open plan, but was this  
 13 window effectively the kitchen window that you were able  
 14 to see?  
 15 **A. So the window that I --**  
 16 Q. You say that the only window that you could see the fire  
 17 from was the window in the living room/kitchen area on  
 18 the east side of the tower.  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. Was that the window that would've been in the kitchen?  
 21 **A. I think it was in the middle, between the living room**  
 22 **and the kitchen, yes.**  
 23 Q. Let's check it with your plan, please. IWS00000780,  
 24 page 2.  
 25 We have the kitchen marked 10, and that's got

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<p>1 a window looking east, and then as we move through into 2 the lounge, we have another window and the number 12 is 3 circled next to that window.</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Which window was it that you could see the fire from at 6 this time?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Number 12.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Can you describe what you were able to see from that 9 window?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Just a fire spreading to the top, like going up, yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. You told us a few moments ago that when you first looked 12 out, your estimate was that it was seven or eight floors 13 below.</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Had the level at which you could see the fire changed at 16 all?</p> <p>17 <b>A. It changed. It was going up, yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. And how much closer was it to you now?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Maybe four or five floors below me, but on the other 20 side, so the left side of the window.</b></p> <p>21 Q. So, again, still on the left side as you looked out.</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>23 Q. But now, rather than seven or eight floors, four or five 24 below?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 you describe the smell, please?</p> <p>2 <b>A. The smell, it was, I think, coming from our main door, 3 from the bottom of the door. So it was okay at the 4 beginning, but then it started to be thicker, yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. I'll come back to the main door, if I may. But I think 6 you're on the opposite side of the flat, aren't you, 7 because you're in the kitchen and the lounge at this 8 time?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. So placing yourself and your brother in the 11 kitchen/lounge area, was there anything coming into your 12 flat from that side, any smoke coming into your flat 13 through the windows of the living room or the kitchen?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I don't think it was coming from the window at the 15 beginning, no, because it wasn't that windy at that 16 time. So we couldn't smell it if we look out from the 17 window, yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Let's go back, then, to your statement, and can I take 19 you to IWS00000781, page 7, please.</p> <p>20 Let's just expand, first of all, paragraph 20.</p> <p>21 You've already told us that when you started 22 shouting, firefighters shouted back to you and told you 23 to stay.</p> <p>24 If we pick it up at paragraph 20, you said that you: 25 "... continued to shout down to the firefighters and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 Q. I'll take you to your statement if you need to see it, 2 but what you also describe is seeing a firefighter on 3 a crane using a hose.</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. In the same paragraph, you say that you saw that things 6 were falling.</p> <p>7 Can you describe what you could see falling, please?</p> <p>8 <b>A. What could I see, sorry?</b></p> <p>9 Q. You say --</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. -- "Things were falling and we could smell the fire." 12 What is it that you could see falling?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes. I think it was -- I saw parts of the tower was 14 falling, and the fire was spreading very quickly to the 15 top. And I saw the firefighter, he was on the crane 16 just trying to put the water everywhere, on the top and 17 down, right, left, everywhere. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. How large were the objects that you could see falling?</p> <p>19 <b>A. At the beginning, it was little bit, but then I start to 20 see more things, like, falling from -- yes, the left 21 side of the tower.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Were they falling from a point still below you?</p> <p>23 <b>A. At the beginning it was, yes, but then it was on the top 24 of me.</b></p> <p>25 Q. What you also say is that you could smell the fire. Can</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 the people on the ground asking for help. We were 2 shouting 'help, we need to leave'. The firefighters 3 next to the main entrance shouted up to us and told us 4 to stop shouting and they told us that they were coming 5 up to help us."</p> <p>6 So was this a second occasion when firefighters 7 shouted up to you?</p> <p>8 <b>A. It was the second time, yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. What did you understand by them telling you that they 10 were coming up to help you?</p> <p>11 <b>A. That time I said to myself maybe they are doing 12 something or fixing something in the stairs or putting 13 down a fire and they will come soon to us, and they knew 14 that we are in the flat, so we stopped shouting that 15 time because they saw us, yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Let's look, please, at the next paragraph on that page, 17 paragraph 21.</p> <p>18 I'm going to just ask you some questions about parts 19 of this paragraph.</p> <p>20 One of the things you say in that is that: 21 "I think we opened the door again before 2am ..." 22 Do you remember why you decided to open the front 23 door?</p> <p>24 <b>A. To check again if it's easier to leave now or still 25 dark.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

6 (Pages 21 to 24)

1 Q. You describe the smoke as thicker than before.  
 2 Was there more smoke in some parts of the communal  
 3 area than others?  
 4 **A. No, it was everywhere, actually, very smoky and very**  
 5 **dark, darker than before, yes.**  
 6 Q. Did some of the smoke come into your --  
 7 **A. Yes, when we opened the door, the smoke started to come**  
 8 **inside, so we closed the door straight away.**  
 9 Q. Were the lights on in your hallway at the time?  
 10 **A. Yes, in my hallway, yes.**  
 11 Q. Did you or your brother step out into the communal  
 12 hallway at all?  
 13 **A. No, just next to our door.**  
 14 Q. What was the temperature like in the communal area at  
 15 this time?  
 16 **A. When we opened the door, we could feel it from the**  
 17 **smoke. We could feel it was warmer than before.**  
 18 Q. When you say warmer than before, was that warmer than it  
 19 had been in the communal area when you first opened the  
 20 door?  
 21 **A. When I first opened the door, yes.**  
 22 Q. Using the temperature in your flat as a comparison, how  
 23 much warmer was it?  
 24 **A. 40 or 50 per cent, I would say. Yes. I think feeling**  
 25 **the smoke, we could see that -- we could feel that was**

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1 **hot, yes, hotter than before.**  
 2 Q. You say in that paragraph that it was difficult to see  
 3 anything.  
 4 How far could you see through the smoke?  
 5 **A. I think you just -- we couldn't see, actually, anything.**  
 6 **Maybe you can see your hand if you put it in front of**  
 7 **you only, but any other things, no.**  
 8 Q. In terms of a distance, how far away would you have your  
 9 hand?  
 10 **A. Yes, I would say just this size, see my hand only**  
 11 **(Demonstrates).**  
 12 Q. You could see your hand if it were an arm's length  
 13 away --  
 14 **A. Yes.**  
 15 Q. -- but no more?  
 16 **A. No more.**  
 17 Q. Just so that we can be clear about the sequence of  
 18 events, you go on -- I am going to ask you about this in  
 19 a moment -- that at about 02.00 am, a firefighter came  
 20 and knocked on your front door.  
 21 So had you opened your front door to look out before  
 22 the firefighter arrived?  
 23 **A. It was only two times we opened the door to check. So,**  
 24 **yes.**  
 25 Q. But how soon before the firefighter came and knocked on

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1 your front door had you opened the front door to look  
 2 out?  
 3 **A. I'm not sure about how long it was, but not that long**  
 4 **since we opened the door until he came, yes.**  
 5 Q. So are you able to estimate how much time passed between  
 6 your opening the front door with your brother and then  
 7 the firefighter coming and knocking on your door?  
 8 **A. Not sure, but I would say maybe 20 minutes, maybe.**  
 9 Q. Going now to the firefighter.  
 10 Did you hear anything outside the door before there  
 11 was a knocking on your front door?  
 12 **A. No.**  
 13 Q. At the time when the firefighter arrived in your flat  
 14 and knocked on the door, what were the conditions like  
 15 in your flat at that time?  
 16 **A. A little bit smoky in the corridor area, exactly, and**  
 17 **just next to the front door, yes.**  
 18 Q. But other than that, the rest of the flat was free of  
 19 smoke, was it?  
 20 **A. Yes, it was.**  
 21 Q. You say that the firefighter came inside and closed the  
 22 door behind him. He was wearing his mask and breathing  
 23 equipment.  
 24 Did the firefighter keep the mask on while in your  
 25 flat?

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1 **A. I think the first time when he came, he kept it, but the**  
 2 **second time, he removed it, yes.**  
 3 Q. We'll come back to that second occasion in a moment.  
 4 **A. Yes.**  
 5 Q. What you say in your statement is that the firefighter  
 6 was a white male with an English accent.  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. If he kept his mask on, what was it that made you say he  
 9 was a white male?  
 10 **A. I think I could see his maybe eyes or a little bit of**  
 11 **his face, and I wasn't sure if the same person came**  
 12 **again, but the second time, when he removed his**  
 13 **equipment, I could see that.**  
 14 Q. With this firefighter, he told you:  
 15 "Stay here, your flat is safe. Stay here and we  
 16 will come again."  
 17 You asked him if you could leave, but you also took  
 18 him to see the fire from the window in the  
 19 kitchen/living room area; is that right?  
 20 **A. Yes.**  
 21 Q. Is that the same window that we were looking at earlier?  
 22 **A. Next to number 12, yes.**  
 23 Q. The window marked 12.  
 24 **A. Yes.**  
 25 Q. When you took the firefighter to that window, can you

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<p>1 remember what was going on with the fire at that time.</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes, it was spreading very quickly, going to the top,</b></p> <p>3 <b>and then moving to the top of my window. So going up,</b></p> <p>4 <b>then moving on the top of my window. Yes. And coming</b></p> <p>5 <b>very quickly to our window. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. So if we take that in stages.</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Did you actually look out of the window --</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes, we did.</b></p> <p>10 Q. -- yourself?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. When you say that it was coming to the top of your</p> <p>13 window, do you mean that the fire was at your floor?</p> <p>14 <b>A. No. On the top mean higher, like maybe five floors</b></p> <p>15 <b>higher, or on the top of the tower, also, yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. So whereas before the fire had been lower --</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. -- now it was above you?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Above, yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. And a few floors above you?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Did you have any windows in the living room/kitchen area</p> <p>23 open at that time or did you just open the window to</p> <p>24 look out?</p> <p>25 <b>A. The kitchen one, it was closed. It was hard to see from</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 expand paragraph 21.</p> <p>2 If we look at the last three sentences, you say that</p> <p>3 the firefighter:</p> <p>4 "... opened the front door and more smoke entered</p> <p>5 the flat into the hallway from the communal area</p> <p>6 outside. The smoke which came into our flat then set</p> <p>7 the smoke alarm off. Mohammad and I got some blankets</p> <p>8 and we put them against the front door to stop the smoke</p> <p>9 coming in under it."</p> <p>10 The smoke alarm that was set off, where was that</p> <p>11 alarm?</p> <p>12 <b>A. It was on the corridor, just opposite of my room.</b></p> <p>13 <b>Number 2. Room number 2, opposite of that, yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. And bedroom number 2 is the one with the double bed?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Double, yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. And that's the one that you were sleeping in at the</p> <p>17 time?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Was that the first time that the alarm had gone off that</p> <p>20 night?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Did putting blankets against the front door stop smoke</p> <p>23 coming in?</p> <p>24 <b>A. It stopped, but not 100 per cent, no. Much better than</b></p> <p>25 <b>before, but not perfect.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 <b>the kitchen because it was a bit narrow there, yes. But</b></p> <p>2 <b>if we opened it, we could see the fire, but we didn't,</b></p> <p>3 <b>yes, because we could see from the number 12 window.</b></p> <p>4 Q. You're in the lounge/kitchen area at this time with the</p> <p>5 firefighter. Was any smoke coming into your flat from</p> <p>6 that side?</p> <p>7 <b>A. From the window, no.</b></p> <p>8 Q. As I mentioned, you tell us what the firefighter told</p> <p>9 you, which was to stay in your flat.</p> <p>10 Did the firefighter tell you why you could not leave</p> <p>11 the flat?</p> <p>12 <b>A. No, I asked him why and he didn't reply to me, so he</b></p> <p>13 <b>said, "Just stay where you are and we'll come back".</b></p> <p>14 <b>But I could see that time, he didn't know, so when</b></p> <p>15 <b>I showed him the fire, he wanted to see it because he</b></p> <p>16 <b>didn't know that the fire is close or not. So he wanted</b></p> <p>17 <b>to see to check if it's close or not, yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Tell us what makes you think that the firefighter didn't</p> <p>19 know about that?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Because he was wondering, he was asking me like, "Where?</b></p> <p>21 <b>Show me, where is the fire?" And I had to go with him</b></p> <p>22 <b>to the window and show him the fire. And he was very</b></p> <p>23 <b>quiet, he didn't say anything at that time, he said</b></p> <p>24 <b>"Okay".</b></p> <p>25 Q. Let's go to the next page, please, page 8. Again,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 Q. If we go on the same page, please, to paragraph 22.</p> <p>2 What you say is that after approximately 10 minutes,</p> <p>3 the firefighter came back to the flat.</p> <p>4 Taking that time, how clear are you in your mind</p> <p>5 that it was about 10 minutes between the two visits by</p> <p>6 the firefighter?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Because it wasn't that long since he came back again --</b></p> <p>8 <b>since the first time and the second time. So</b></p> <p>9 <b>I estimated that by maximum 15 minutes, yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. You say there was a group of firefighters; did you see</p> <p>11 other firefighters?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes, I think I saw behind him a group of firefighters</b></p> <p>13 <b>were walking in the floor.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Were they in the communal area?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Communal area, yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. You told us that it was dark in the communal area; how</p> <p>17 were you able to see these firefighters?</p> <p>18 <b>A. When they came to our floor, to the communal area, it</b></p> <p>19 <b>was better than before, actually. I'm not sure why,</b></p> <p>20 <b>maybe because they had lights or -- I don't know the</b></p> <p>21 <b>reason, but it was better than before.</b></p> <p>22 Q. So --</p> <p>23 <b>A. The smoke was less than before, yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. So could you see a bit further into the communal area?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>



<p>1 Q. When you say there was a group of firefighters, do you 2 remember how many firefighters you saw?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No, I don't remember how many.</b></p> <p>4 Q. The firefighter brought one of your neighbours, 5 Denis Murphy, into your flat. 6 What physical condition was Denis Murphy in at that 7 time?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Very bad condition. He had lots of smoke -- he inhaled 9 lots of smoke. And I could see his face as well, he has 10 lots of smoke on his face, and he wasn't breathing very 11 well.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Was Mr Murphy able to speak to you or your brother at 13 all?</p> <p>14 <b>A. He was very calm, quiet, he didn't speak or he didn't 15 say anything.</b></p> <p>16 Q. How did the firefighter get into your flat with 17 Denis Murphy?</p> <p>18 <b>A. They knocked the door again, we opened the door to them, 19 and they brought Denis Murphy, yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Was it only one firefighter that came in with Mr Murphy?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes, with him, yes, only one. And behind him I think 22 there are many. Behind him, I've seen many 23 firefighters, but only him who came into the flat with 24 him. Only one.</b></p> <p>25 Q. At that time, where did the firefighter come? How far</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 <b>smoke inhalation, it means the smoke is in his flat 2 which is very close to us." He said, "Okay, don't 3 worry, your flat's still safe, it's the best corner, so 4 stay here."</b></p> <p>5 <b>I don't know, I was just shocked or surprised, like, 6 and I think that time I asked, "Okay, do you have any 7 masks for us?" And he said, "No, we don't have, they've 8 been used."</b></p> <p>9 Q. Sorry, I didn't quite catch your last answer.</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes. I asked him if he had any masks for us so we can 11 leave. He said, "No, we don't have, they have been 12 used."</b></p> <p>13 Q. Did the firefighter tell you to go to a particular part 14 of your flat?</p> <p>15 <b>A. I think -- I don't remember, but maybe he was saying to 16 stay in the bedroom, not in the living room. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. The flat has two bedrooms; was he indicating 18 a particular bedroom?</p> <p>19 <b>A. He indicate the one with two beds, number 1.</b></p> <p>20 Q. So that's the bedroom that your brother occupied?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. At that time, when the firefighter brought Denis Murphy 23 into your flat, what were the conditions like in your 24 flat?</p> <p>25 <b>A. It was still a bit smoky in the corridor area, but</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 did the firefighter come into the flat?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Just next to the door, yes, I think. Yes, just next to 3 the door.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Was it on that second occasion that the firefighter 5 removed the mask?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I think it was when he brought Denis, that time when he 7 removed his mask. And because we couldn't hear him very 8 well, and we were asking him questions, so he said, 9 "Stay here" -- he removed it, because we couldn't hear, 10 he removed his mask, and he started to speak to us, 11 saying to us to stay.</b></p> <p>12 Q. So is the sequence of events that there was a knock on 13 the door --</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. -- the firefighter brought Denis in.</p> <p>16 <b>A. Mm-hm.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Was the door then closed?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes, he closed it behind him.</b></p> <p>19 Q. And then he took off his mask and spoke to you?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Just help us. Can you, as best you can, tell us what 22 the firefighter said to you?</p> <p>23 <b>A. He said, "Your flat is safe, leave this man with you and 24 we will come back to you." 25 I started to ask him, "But can you see him? He had</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 <b>better than before, not like before, yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. If we look, please, at paragraph 23, just on the bottom 3 of that page. 4 In this paragraph, you're dealing with the move into 5 flat 113. You say that approximately another 10 minutes 6 had passed and a firefighter came back and came into 7 your flat. 8 Again, how certain are you of the time that had 9 passed?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Again, because I felt it wasn't more than 15 minutes 11 maximum, so I said maybe 10 minutes, yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. When the firefighter came back into flat 112, where were 13 you, Denis Murphy and your brother?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I don't remember where Denis Murphy was, but me and my 15 brother, we were speaking to him next to our door. But 16 I think he was close to us, not far, yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. But before the firefighter came back, had you followed 18 the advice and gone into the bedroom?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes. For the first time, we had to go to the living 20 room just to wash Denis Murphy's face and give him some 21 water, and then we came back to the bedroom.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Again, just help us with this: how did the firefighter 23 get into your flat?</p> <p>24 <b>A. They knocked the door again.</b></p> <p>25 Q. So was it the case that when they knocked, you and your</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 brother let the firefighter in?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Did you have a conversation with the firefighter by the</p> <p>4 front door?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Can you describe the firefighter at all?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I think with British accent, tall, and blond. That's</b></p> <p>8 <b>what I remember, yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Was the firefighter wearing a face mask?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Did the firefighter take the face mask off?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I'm not sure exactly when he took it off. Maybe at the</b></p> <p>13 <b>time when he brought Denis or at the time when he wanted</b></p> <p>14 <b>to tell us to move to 113.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Again, so that we can be clear --</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. -- do you remember -- because there are obviously three</p> <p>18 visits to your flat by a firefighter, aren't there?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. The first time when the firefighter comes, then when the</p> <p>21 firefighter brings Denis, and this occasion when the</p> <p>22 firefighter comes to tell you about moving to</p> <p>23 a different flat; is that right?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes. So --</b></p> <p>25 Q. I'm sorry to interrupt, but if I just break it down.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 Q. You've set out -- I won't ask you the detail -- how you</p> <p>2 moved from flat 112 to 113.</p> <p>3 When you were making that move, were you aware of</p> <p>4 any other firefighters being around?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I think, yes, I could see -- not clearly, but I could</b></p> <p>6 <b>see many firefighters in the communal area.</b></p> <p>7 Q. When you say "many", can you give us a number?</p> <p>8 <b>A. No, not sure, but not more than five maximum, I think.</b></p> <p>9 Q. What were the conditions like in the communal area as</p> <p>10 you moved across from your flat to flat 113?</p> <p>11 <b>A. We have been told to run quickly, so it took us maybe</b></p> <p>12 <b>just seconds to be in the next flat, so I didn't really</b></p> <p>13 <b>check, or I didn't really see or look. But I could</b></p> <p>14 <b>smell the smoke, but because it was very quickly, so</b></p> <p>15 <b>I didn't inhale smoke that much.</b></p> <p>16 Q. When you say you could smell the smoke, can you describe</p> <p>17 the smell?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I think when they were in the communal area, it wasn't</b></p> <p>19 <b>that thick comparing to before. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. And before is when you'd seen it earlier?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes, when I saw it.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Was that when you'd opened --</p> <p>23 <b>A. When I tried to leave, me and my brother, yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. As you moved across from your flat to flat 113, into the</p> <p>25 communal area, were you able to see the door that opens</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 It's one firefighter who comes into the flat on each</p> <p>2 occasion, isn't it?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Is it your evidence that on one of those occasions, the</p> <p>5 firefighter removed the face mask?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes, only one time, and I'm not sure if it's the same</b></p> <p>7 <b>person who came before and after.</b></p> <p>8 Q. And the occasion when the firefighter removed the face</p> <p>9 mask could either have been when Denis Murphy came into</p> <p>10 your flat, or this occasion when you were moving to</p> <p>11 flat 113?</p> <p>12 <b>A. So I'm sure it wasn't the first time, either the second</b></p> <p>13 <b>or the third time.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>15 You've described the firefighter as British, tall</p> <p>16 and blond; is that blond hair?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Did the firefighter tell you why you had to move?</p> <p>19 <b>A. They told us, "We will move you to the next flat as it's</b></p> <p>20 <b>safer, and we'll keep you there."</b></p> <p>21 Q. Did they explain why your flat was no longer safe?</p> <p>22 <b>A. No, they didn't. They just said 113 is safer for you.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Did the firefighter specifically mention flat 113?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I think they said the next flat. I don't remember if</b></p> <p>25 <b>they mentioned 113.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 into the stairwell?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes, I could see light, so I knew it's the door, yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. So there was sufficient visibility for you to be able to</p> <p>4 make out the door?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Were the firefighters using torches?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I think they were, yes.</b></p> <p>8 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, we've been going for an hour.</p> <p>9 I think if I could ask for a break at this point.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think that would be sensible</p> <p>11 because you are coming on to a slightly different topic</p> <p>12 anyway, aren't you?</p> <p>13 MR RAWAT: Yes.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Alhajali, we are going to have</p> <p>15 a bit of a break now. Please don't talk to anyone about</p> <p>16 your evidence while you're out of the room, and we'll</p> <p>17 resume at 11.10, if that's all right.</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>20 If you would like to go with the usher, she'll look</p> <p>21 after you.</p> <p>22 All right, 11.10, please.</p> <p>23 (11.00 am)</p> <p>24 (A short break)</p> <p>25 (11.10 am)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

10 (Pages 37 to 40)

<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Alhajali?</p> <p>2 THE WITNESS: Yes, fine, thank you.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Ready to continue?</p> <p>4 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>6 THE WITNESS: Thanks.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Rawat.</p> <p>8 MR RAWAT: Could we have IWS00000781, page 9, please.</p> <p>9 Could we expand just the last sentence of what is</p> <p>10 paragraph 23 down through to the end of paragraph 25,</p> <p>11 please.</p> <p>12 If we just pick it up at that last sentence of</p> <p>13 paragraph 23, Mr Alhajali.</p> <p>14 You say:</p> <p>15 "Mohammad, Dennis[sic] and I all went inside [that's</p> <p>16 into flat 113] and I think the fireman closed the door</p> <p>17 behind us."</p> <p>18 So do you have a recollection of firemen actually</p> <p>19 coming into the flat with you or just opening the door</p> <p>20 and ushering you in?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I don't remember if he came with us inside, into the</b></p> <p>22 <b>flat, but I remember that he came into the flat, but I'm</b></p> <p>23 <b>not sure if it was at that time or after.</b></p> <p>24 Q. If we look at paragraph 24, is this right: when you</p> <p>25 arrived at flat 113, obviously that was the home of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 Q. Can you describe this fireman at all?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I couldn't describe him, but he's tall as well, that's</b></p> <p>3 <b>what I remember.</b></p> <p>4 Q. When you say tall, how tall?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Same as my height, maybe.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Can you give us your height?</p> <p>7 <b>A. 188 centimetres.</b></p> <p>8 Q. You say he, could you --</p> <p>9 <b>A. He was talking to me and to the others.</b></p> <p>10 Q. When the fireman was talking to you, did he sound like</p> <p>11 a man?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes, he did.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Did he keep his face mask on?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. How far into the flat did the firefighter come?</p> <p>16 <b>A. He came into the kitchen and the living room.</b></p> <p>17 Q. I think what would be helpful now is just to show you</p> <p>18 a plan.</p> <p>19 Could we have MET00012593 and page 12 of that</p> <p>20 document, please.</p> <p>21 If we could just expand the bottom south-west</p> <p>22 corner, please.</p> <p>23 Mr Alhajali, this may be a plan that you're familiar</p> <p>24 with, it's one that we've used with other witnesses.</p> <p>25 It's the layout of floor 4, but it gives us the layout</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 Oluwaseun Talabi, his partner, Rosemary, and their young</p> <p>2 daughter, and they were there.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. But was Zainab Deen and her son already there when you</p> <p>5 arrived?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I think they were already there, because I've seen all</b></p> <p>7 <b>of them, yes, they were already there.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Can you remember where they were when you came into the</p> <p>9 flat?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I'm not 100 per cent sure but I think it was the living</b></p> <p>11 <b>room.</b></p> <p>12 Q. So is your memory of everyone gathering in the living</p> <p>13 room?</p> <p>14 <b>A. In the living room, yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. You say, if we look at paragraph 25:</p> <p>16 "25. The fireman came into the flat and told us to</p> <p>17 stay there and told us it was the safest place to be."</p> <p>18 How soon after you were in flat 113 did that fireman</p> <p>19 come into the flat?</p> <p>20 <b>A. This is where I don't remember exactly when, but maybe</b></p> <p>21 <b>at the same time when he brought us into the flat 113,</b></p> <p>22 <b>or after that. I'm not sure exactly when.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Do you have any recollection of, after you'd arrived in</p> <p>24 the flat, somebody opening the door for the fireman?</p> <p>25 <b>A. I don't remember who opened the door.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 of all the floors above there, and so where we see</p> <p>2 "FLAT 3 (13)", that would actually be the layout of</p> <p>3 flat 113.</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. So we can see there that there's a kitchen and a lounge,</p> <p>6 and the two windows of the lounge and the window of the</p> <p>7 kitchen would face west, and then there are two windows</p> <p>8 of the lounge facing south.</p> <p>9 You say that the firefighter came into the</p> <p>10 lounge/kitchen area.</p> <p>11 What you also say in your statement is:</p> <p>12 "We showed the fireman that the fire could be seen</p> <p>13 from the windows on both sides of the flat."</p> <p>14 So which windows are you referring to there?</p> <p>15 <b>A. So where we are showing him from this window, I think</b></p> <p>16 <b>it's the kitchen window, I think this one here</b></p> <p>17 <b>(Indicates). So it was nearly here, the fire, on the</b></p> <p>18 <b>right side of the kitchen window.</b></p> <p>19 Q. So your recollection is of taking the fireman to the</p> <p>20 kitchen window?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I think me and Rosemary did that, yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Did you yourself look out of the kitchen window?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes, I did.</b></p> <p>24 Q. You tell us that the fire was on the right side as</p> <p>25 you're looking out of that kitchen window.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

1 Can you give us a little more detail of what you  
 2 could see?  
 3 **A. It was spreading as well on the right side, going up as**  
 4 **well, and spreading as well very quickly, going to the**  
 5 **top, and then moving to above our window.**  
 6 Q. So when you were looking out there, was the fire already  
 7 above your level?  
 8 **A. No, it was still on the right side. But later on**  
 9 **I think it started to move to above our window.**  
 10 Q. But if we take it at that time --  
 11 **A. Yes.**  
 12 Q. -- you're saying it was on the right side. Was it below  
 13 you or at the same level as your floor?  
 14 **A. I think it's the same level, I think, or two floors**  
 15 **below. Yes.**  
 16 Q. You've told us who is in the flat at the moment, and  
 17 your recollection was -- correct me if I have this  
 18 wrong -- that everyone was in the lounge area; is that  
 19 right?  
 20 **A. I think, yes, everyone. Not sure if everyone, but, yes,**  
 21 **what I remember, it's everyone maybe.**  
 22 Q. Where was Denis Murphy at that time?  
 23 **A. He was next to the window, kitchen window, trying to**  
 24 **have some fresh air, and I think he was using his phone,**  
 25 **but next to the kitchen window, yes.**

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1 Q. Can you describe what condition Denis Murphy was in at  
 2 that time?  
 3 **A. Very quiet, very calm. He didn't say anything. But we**  
 4 **knew that he wasn't in good situation.**  
 5 Q. You say you think he was using his phone.  
 6 **A. Yes.**  
 7 Q. Could you tell whether he was calling someone or whether  
 8 he was receiving calls?  
 9 **A. I didn't hear him. But I could see that he was using**  
 10 **his phone and he was talking, maybe, or trying to call**  
 11 **or -- I'm not sure. Answering a call. Yes.**  
 12 Q. So just so that we can be clear, you remember Mr Murphy  
 13 with the phone to his ear --  
 14 **A. Yes.**  
 15 Q. -- but you didn't hear what he was saying to anyone?  
 16 **A. No.**  
 17 Q. Zainab Deen, what condition was she in at that time?  
 18 **A. She was just scared. Panicked. Quite panicked. Yes.**  
 19 Q. In your statement, you say that she was busy making  
 20 phone calls. Do you remember who she was calling?  
 21 **A. No, I don't remember.**  
 22 Q. Did you hear anything of what she was saying on the  
 23 telephone?  
 24 **A. Not sure, but maybe friends or relatives.**  
 25 Q. But, again, do you remember Zainab Deen having the phone

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1 to her ear?  
 2 **A. Yes.**  
 3 Q. Can I take you now, please, to page 10 in your  
 4 statement. So it's IWS00000781, page 10, please, and  
 5 can we expand paragraph 26.  
 6 I won't read out the whole paragraph, but in this  
 7 paragraph what you describe is Olu -- that's Oluwaseun  
 8 Talabi -- tying blankets together and then trying to  
 9 climb out of the window with his daughter.  
 10 What you say in that paragraph was:  
 11 "It was the living room window facing the south  
 12 side."  
 13 I'll take you back to the plan to see if we can try  
 14 and find out where everyone was at that time.  
 15 How clear are you in your mind that this was from  
 16 the living room window?  
 17 **A. I'm not 100 per cent sure. I don't think -- not sure if**  
 18 **it was the living room or the bedroom, because what**  
 19 **I remember, we moved after from the living room to the**  
 20 **bedroom. So I don't really remember if it was after we**  
 21 **moved to the bedroom or before, which is the living**  
 22 **room.**  
 23 Q. Can you remember how soon after your arrival in flat 113  
 24 Olu started trying to tie blankets together?  
 25 **A. I don't remember when exactly. No.**

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1 Q. Do you remember him actually putting the rope together?  
 2 **A. No. I think it was ready. It was just out of the**  
 3 **window, yes.**  
 4 Q. Let's go back to the plan that we were looking at,  
 5 MET00012593, and can we look at page 12, please.  
 6 In your statement, as you said -- and you said you  
 7 might not be sure of this -- but if we take it in  
 8 stages, your recollection when you made your statement  
 9 was that the window that Mr Talabi tried to climb out of  
 10 was the living room window facing the south side.  
 11 So if we look at that plan, is that one of the sort  
 12 of two windows that we see at the bottom of the image?  
 13 So where it's written "FLAT 3 (13)", was that --  
 14 **A. So I'm not sure if it was this window or this window,**  
 15 **but what I remember it was facing this side (Indicates).**  
 16 Q. Just to help you, Mr Alhajali, I think that on this  
 17 plan, where it shows the blue lines --  
 18 **A. Oh, the blue lines.**  
 19 Q. -- those are the windows. So there are two windows in  
 20 the living room and a window in each bedroom.  
 21 **A. Yes.**  
 22 Q. With that, can you try and help us with which window you  
 23 think Mr Talabi was trying to climb out of?  
 24 **A. So I'm not sure if it's this one or this one here**  
 25 **(Indicates). One of them. Yes. But I'm sure it's not**

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<p>1 <b>this one, it's not this, and it's not this side</b></p> <p>2 <b>(Indicates).</b></p> <p>3 Q. So it's either the window in the living room facing</p> <p>4 south and closest to the bedroom wall, or the window of</p> <p>5 the bedroom that's closest to the adjoining flat?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Do you remember how many times Mr Talabi tried to climb</p> <p>8 out of the window?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I think two or three times.</b></p> <p>10 Q. When he was doing this, what were you and the other</p> <p>11 neighbours doing?</p> <p>12 <b>A. We didn't agree with him, because we felt it's not</b></p> <p>13 <b>strong enough for the blanket to do that, like --</b></p> <p>14 <b>I didn't agree or I didn't think that he will escape</b></p> <p>15 <b>through the blankets. So I tried to advise, don't do</b></p> <p>16 <b>it.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Was anybody else giving him the same advice?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes, I think my brother too and his partner, Rosemary.</b></p> <p>19 Q. You've told us of a recollection of a firefighter coming</p> <p>20 into the flat and your showing the firefighter the fire</p> <p>21 from the window.</p> <p>22 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Later on, firefighters came back, and that was when you</p> <p>24 left the flat. I'm going to ask you questions about</p> <p>25 that in due course.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 Q. But the window that he used to tie the rope to, do you</p> <p>2 remember helping him with that window?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Not with tying the blanket, no, just opening the window.</b></p> <p>4 Q. That he then used?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I'm not sure if it's the same window he used, but</b></p> <p>6 <b>I remembered we opened a window widely, just to try and</b></p> <p>7 <b>have clear view, yes, of everything around us.</b></p> <p>8 Q. We know that Mr Talabi tied that makeshift rope --</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. -- to part of a window. You've told us that you now are</p> <p>11 not sure which window it was.</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. But do you remember part of that window coming off at</p> <p>14 all?</p> <p>15 <b>A. No, it wasn't taken off, no.</b></p> <p>16 Q. What you also say is that Mr Talabi had tied his</p> <p>17 daughter to his back.</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes, he did.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Once he had done that, did she stay tied to his back?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Not perfect, no, it wasn't good at all. So I didn't</b></p> <p>21 <b>really see that she's 100 per cent fitted to his back.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Let's go back to paragraph 26, then, on page 10, please.</p> <p>23 I'll pick it up from this sentence:</p> <p>24 "Olu tied his young daughter to his back with a</p> <p>25 blanket and he was about to leave the window with her</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 But between those two events -- your showing the</p> <p>2 firefighter the fire and then your leaving the flat --</p> <p>3 do you recall at all any other firefighters coming into</p> <p>4 the flat at any time?</p> <p>5 <b>A. You mean before I left the flat?</b></p> <p>6 Q. Yes.</p> <p>7 <b>A. I think only once, when we showed him from the kitchen</b></p> <p>8 <b>window.</b></p> <p>9 Q. That was just one firefighter?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes, only one firefighter.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Again, so that we can just be clear, was the next time</p> <p>12 that you encountered firefighters when you left the</p> <p>13 flat?</p> <p>14 <b>A. The next time which -- when I left the flat, and the</b></p> <p>15 <b>first time when I showed him the fire from the kitchen</b></p> <p>16 <b>window, yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>18 I'll come back to that in due course, but can I just</p> <p>19 ask you a few more questions about Mr Talabi and his</p> <p>20 efforts to go out of the window.</p> <p>21 Do you remember helping him to open the window</p> <p>22 wider?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes, I think we did, but not for the blanket; I think to</b></p> <p>24 <b>try and see everything around us, which is the right and</b></p> <p>25 <b>left side, and see the main entrance of the tower, yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 attached to his back ... She was crying and didn't want</p> <p>2 him to do it. Olu's wife didn't want him to try and get</p> <p>3 out through the window. He was saying that he was doing</p> <p>4 it for their daughter. He then undid the blanket and</p> <p>5 took his daughter out. Olu then started to climb out of</p> <p>6 the window."</p> <p>7 He got stuck in a position and your brother and</p> <p>8 yourself grabbed hold of him and pulled him back in.</p> <p>9 Is that something that you still remember now?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Just to go back to my question, you told us that there</p> <p>12 was a time when Mr Talabi tied his daughter to his back.</p> <p>13 Do you remember him then untying his daughter from</p> <p>14 his back?</p> <p>15 <b>A. I remembered -- I think it was him and his partner who</b></p> <p>16 <b>untied his daughter, yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. You may not be able to help us with this, and tell us if</p> <p>18 you can't, but when you're, in your mind, picturing</p> <p>19 Mr Talabi by that window, are you clear in your mind</p> <p>20 that it was in the lounge or in a bedroom?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I'm not clear. Maybe the bedroom, because I remembered</b></p> <p>22 <b>seeing children lying on the double bed. So I think</b></p> <p>23 <b>it's the bedroom, but not 100 per cent sure, yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Do you remember everyone else who was in the flat being</p> <p>25 in the same room as Mr Talabi when he was trying to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>

1 climb out of the window?  
 2 **A. I remember seeing Zainab and her son in the bedroom,**  
 3 **because her son was on the bed. So I knew that time we**  
 4 **are in the bedroom, yes.**  
 5 Q. Again, did you see them before or after Mr Talabi had  
 6 tried to exit through the window?  
 7 **A. I don't remember. Not sure really if it's after, but**  
 8 **maybe after. Not sure if it's after, or during that**  
 9 **time. Yes.**  
 10 Q. When you were in flat 113, were the lights in the flat  
 11 working?  
 12 **A. Yes.**  
 13 Q. And which rooms had lights on?  
 14 **A. The bedroom and the living room. I don't remember if we**  
 15 **had light in the corridor area, but I remembered it was**  
 16 **darker than the living room and the bedroom.**  
 17 Q. Let's look at paragraphs 27 and 28 on the same page,  
 18 please.  
 19 In the sequence of events that you've set out in  
 20 your statement, this would read as what happens after  
 21 Mr Talabi had tried to leave by the window. You say  
 22 that Denis Murphy wasn't talking, was just next to the  
 23 kitchen window on the west side, looking at the fire.  
 24 Had Mr Murphy's condition changed at all in the time  
 25 from when he arrived in your flat?

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1 **A. No. Just staying calm and quiet all the time.**  
 2 Q. You've placed him there in the kitchen or by the kitchen  
 3 window.  
 4 Do you recall him ever moving to other parts of the  
 5 flat?  
 6 **A. I think he moved with us to the bedroom, and maybe that**  
 7 **was an advice from the firefighter when he saw the fire,**  
 8 **to move to the bedroom, which is safer to us than being**  
 9 **in the lounge and kitchen area.**  
 10 Q. Was this the firefighter that you had taken to show the  
 11 fire to?  
 12 **A. Yes.**  
 13 Q. What is it that now makes you think that the firefighter  
 14 gave some advice?  
 15 **A. He gave some advice maybe because he tried to put us in**  
 16 **the safest area, which is the one which is very far from**  
 17 **the fire.**  
 18 Q. Do you have a clear recollection in your mind that the  
 19 firefighter did give some advice?  
 20 **A. I don't think -- it was an advice, but not truly good**  
 21 **advice. Yes.**  
 22 Q. Let's take that in stages.  
 23 You've taken the firefighter to see the fire from  
 24 the kitchen window.  
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. Do you now remember the firefighter giving you advice?  
 2 **A. Yes, I remembered him -- I think, yes, I remembered**  
 3 **because we moved to the bedroom because he said that.**  
 4 Q. Well, let's just go back to the previous page, to  
 5 page 9, please, and look at paragraph 25 again.  
 6 What you said in your statement was:  
 7 "The fireman looked at the fire from the window on  
 8 the west side and just said 'ok'. He again told us to  
 9 stay where we were and then left."  
 10 So what is it that now makes you believe that what  
 11 the firefighter told you was to move to the bedroom?  
 12 **A. I'm not really certain about this, but what I think, we**  
 13 **have moved to the bedroom because we have been advised.**  
 14 **So it might be the firefighter or maybe we advised each**  
 15 **other to move to the bedroom, which is safer. So not**  
 16 **really sure about why we moved to the bedroom. Yes.**  
 17 **But what I remember, the firefighter was very quiet**  
 18 **as well, and he said maybe few words. One of them is**  
 19 **"okay". Yes.**  
 20 Q. You've told us that you can't be sure whether Mr Talabi  
 21 tried to leave via a window in the living room or via  
 22 a window in the bedroom.  
 23 **A. Yes, because -- sorry, we spent some time in the living**  
 24 **room, and other time in the bedroom, so I'm not sure**  
 25 **where it was, that, yes.**

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1 Q. But doing the best you can, is it possible that you may  
 2 have moved to the bedroom after he had tried to leave by  
 3 a window?  
 4 **A. I'm not sure. I'm not sure if it was after or before.**  
 5 Q. Let's go back, please, to paragraph 27 on page 10.  
 6 We've looked at this, but I just want to pick up on  
 7 the second sentence:  
 8 "The rest of us were in the living room next to the  
 9 window on the south side. We were talking about escape  
 10 plans, whether it was safe to leave from the stairwell."  
 11 Is that still your recollection, that when you had  
 12 a discussion about escape plans, you were in the living  
 13 room?  
 14 **A. At the beginning we were in the living room and we spoke**  
 15 **about many things. I'm not sure if this discussion was**  
 16 **in the living room or the bedroom, but maybe in both of**  
 17 **them, because -- yes.**  
 18 Q. Are you able to help us at all with how soon after this  
 19 firefighter left you moved into the bedroom?  
 20 **A. I can't remember, but not really long time, I think.**  
 21 Q. Again, let's look at paragraph 28 now.  
 22 You say:  
 23 "28. Every time we looked out of the window we  
 24 could see that the fire was getting closer and closer to  
 25 us. I looked east towards my flat next door (out of the

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1 windows facing south) and could see the whole flat was  
 2 burning and on fire."  
 3 Again, just so that we can be clear, can you  
 4 remember which window you were looking out at?  
 5 **A. I think it was the bedroom, bedroom window. Maybe I as**  
 6 **well checked from the living room window as well.**  
 7 Q. Let's go back to the plan, then. MET00012593, page 12,  
 8 please. Just expand flat 3.  
 9 So if we're looking south, you have two windows in  
 10 the lounge, marked with the blue lines, and you have two  
 11 bedrooms.  
 12 In paragraph 28 we were looking at, you refer to  
 13 looking out of one window.  
 14 Do you remember looking out of the window on more  
 15 than one occasion now?  
 16 **A. Yes, I looked from the window for many times, actually.**  
 17 **Yes, I checked from the window many times. I remembered**  
 18 **checking from the lounge window and the bedroom window.**  
 19 Q. When you say the lounge window, is that the window that  
 20 you indicated earlier, the one that's closest to the  
 21 bedroom?  
 22 **A. Yes, this one (Indicates).**  
 23 Q. There are two bedroom windows that face in the same  
 24 direction.  
 25 **A. So this bedroom (Indicates).**

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1 Q. What is it that tells you that you were in that bedroom  
 2 rather than the other bedroom?  
 3 **A. Because I remembered we were opposite of the front door**  
 4 **and it had a double bed. So, yes.**  
 5 Q. What you say -- and I'll take you back to it if you need  
 6 it:  
 7 "I looked east towards my flat next door (out of the  
 8 windows facing south) and could see the whole flat was  
 9 burning and on fire. The fire was getting closer to us.  
 10 This was around 2:45am."  
 11 What do you base that timing on?  
 12 **A. I checked the time when I left the tower. So when**  
 13 **I checked from the window, it was maybe 15 minutes**  
 14 **before I left the tower. Yes.**  
 15 Q. How did you check the time when you left the tower?  
 16 **A. I think by my phone, because my phone was with me, yes.**  
 17 Q. You say in paragraph 28 that the smoke was now getting  
 18 stronger.  
 19 Where was the smoke coming from?  
 20 **A. From the front door to the corridor.**  
 21 Q. Was this the front door of flat 113?  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. Could you see how the smoke was getting into the front  
 24 door of flat 113?  
 25 **A. It was dark in the corridor area and front of the door**

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1 **as well. It was getting darker. And I remembered we**  
 2 **used blanket to try and stop the smoke on the bottom of**  
 3 **the door.**  
 4 Q. Did that work?  
 5 **A. I don't think it did, no. Maybe the smoke as well was**  
 6 **coming from somewhere else, not just the bottom, yeah.**  
 7 Q. How was the visibility in the corridor of flat 113 at  
 8 that time?  
 9 **A. Not that clear, like maybe I would say 50 per cent.**  
 10 Q. You say:  
 11 "... the heat of the flat was getting hotter and  
 12 hotter. The hallway was darker than the other rooms.  
 13 It started to get harder to breathe. We were all  
 14 sweating from the heat."  
 15 So where you're talking about the heat of the flat,  
 16 is that conditions inside flat 113?  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. Aside from the smoke coming through the front door, were  
 19 you aware of smoke coming into the flat from anywhere  
 20 else?  
 21 **A. I'm not sure if it was coming from anywhere else, but we**  
 22 **could smell it and we could feel it was getting hotter**  
 23 **there.**  
 24 Q. Doing the best you can, you've identified two windows  
 25 that you looked out of. Were you aware of smoke coming

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1 into the flat through those windows?  
 2 **A. I don't think it was coming from the windows, otherwise**  
 3 **we would close it. I think we kept it open, that time.**  
 4 Q. Do you remember what happened to the makeshift rope that  
 5 Mr Talabi had fashioned?  
 6 **A. No, I don't remember.**  
 7 Q. Do you remember it being tied to a window frame?  
 8 **A. I remember it was tied to it, but I don't know if they**  
 9 **pulled it out or they untied it again, or -- I don't**  
 10 **remember that, yes.**  
 11 Q. Just so that we can be clear, you're saying at  
 12 paragraph 28:  
 13 "Every time we looked out of the window ..."  
 14 And you refer to windows facing south.  
 15 Could this be one of the two windows that you've  
 16 identified?  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. Can we look, then, at IWS00000781, page 11, and can we  
 19 have a look at paragraph 29, please.  
 20 You begin that paragraph with the sentence:  
 21 "29. As the fire was coming closer to us everyone  
 22 started to run around shouting and it was getting manic  
 23 in the flat. We were shouting and walking around  
 24 everywhere. Everyone was panicking. We thought to open  
 25 the windows. We also thought to open the front door to

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<p>1 leave."</p> <p>2 Taking that in stages, where was everyone going in</p> <p>3 the flat?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I remembered last time we were in the bedroom, the one</b></p> <p>5 <b>with double bed, because it was small and we were too</b></p> <p>6 <b>many in one bedroom, so we started to just walk around,</b></p> <p>7 <b>and maybe we left the bedroom to check the living room</b></p> <p>8 <b>and come back again, some of us. Not sure, yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. So there were eight people in the flat.</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Can you remember, were you one of those people who was</p> <p>12 moving around?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. What about your brother Mohammad?</p> <p>15 <b>A. I think he was with me most of the time. We were next</b></p> <p>16 <b>to each other. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. What about Zainab Deen, can you remember what she did?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I remember, yes, she was crying and scared, and she put</b></p> <p>19 <b>her child on the bed. So, yes, her son was on the bed.</b></p> <p>20 <b>That's why I remembered she was in the bedroom because</b></p> <p>21 <b>I remember her son was on the bed, and she was saying</b></p> <p>22 <b>few words like, "I lost a son before and I don't want to</b></p> <p>23 <b>lose the other one."</b></p> <p>24 Q. You say that Zainab Deen placed her son on the bed. Did</p> <p>25 she stay in the bedroom or did she go anywhere else in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 I looked to the left I could see our flat, 112."</p> <p>2 Again, can you help us with which window you looked</p> <p>3 out of at this time?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I think it was the bedroom window.</b></p> <p>5 Q. You've written there that it was the living room window;</p> <p>6 what is it that makes you now say that it's the bedroom</p> <p>7 window?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Because I checked from the living room window at the</b></p> <p>9 <b>beginning, and then I checked from the bedroom window.</b></p> <p>10 <b>So it's both of them. But earlier in the living room</b></p> <p>11 <b>and later in the bedroom.</b></p> <p>12 Q. You told us that, doing the best you can, you can</p> <p>13 remember that you were one of those who moved around the</p> <p>14 flat.</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. So you would have gone from bedroom to living room and</p> <p>17 back, wouldn't you?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. So if you are moving around between those two rooms,</p> <p>20 what is it that now makes you clear in your recollection</p> <p>21 that, actually, it was the bedroom window from which you</p> <p>22 saw the things that you describe?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Because of the double bed I've seen in the bedroom, and</b></p> <p>24 <b>the children on the double bed. I wasn't checking that</b></p> <p>25 <b>much in the flat, whether it's living room or bedroom,</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 the flat?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I don't know if she went somewhere else for some times,</b></p> <p>3 <b>but I remembered seeing her in the bedroom. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. What about Denis Murphy, do you remember him moving</p> <p>5 around the flat?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I don't remember if he as well was moving around, but as</b></p> <p>7 <b>well, I saw him in the bedroom.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Aside from the people I've mentioned, there's obviously</p> <p>9 the occupants of the flat, Mr Talabi, his partner,</p> <p>10 Rosemary, and their daughter. Can you remember where</p> <p>11 they were?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Their daughter was on the bed as well, next to Zainab's</b></p> <p>13 <b>son. But Olu and his wife, they were around the bed,</b></p> <p>14 <b>yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. So is your recollection that they stayed in the bedroom</p> <p>16 with their daughter?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Well, yes, I think they stayed there with their</b></p> <p>18 <b>daughter, but not sure if they checked or they went out</b></p> <p>19 <b>to the living room to see or -- and come back, yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Can we look at paragraph 31, please.</p> <p>21 I'm just going to read the first two lines:</p> <p>22 "31. I looked outside the living room window which</p> <p>23 was open. As I looked above I could see the flames of</p> <p>24 the fire. The fire was coming from above and from the</p> <p>25 left. It was coming from Flat 112 and from above. When</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 <b>but because of the double bed I've seen, it was the</b></p> <p>2 <b>bedroom, yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. If you were at that living room window -- I think it's</p> <p>4 one of the two windows that you've indicated earlier,</p> <p>5 isn't it?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. So it's the living room window closest to one of the</p> <p>8 bedrooms.</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. If you were out of that living room window and it was</p> <p>11 open, would that give you a view of your flat, 112?</p> <p>12 <b>A. No, it would give me -- I could see flames, but not</b></p> <p>13 <b>really my flat. But I could see flames on the side, on</b></p> <p>14 <b>the left side of 113, so I realised that should be my</b></p> <p>15 <b>flat, 112.</b></p> <p>16 Q. So if we look at what you've described in paragraph 31,</p> <p>17 you describe the fire travelling downwards from the top</p> <p>18 and coming across from your flat:</p> <p>19 "It was also coming from the north-western side and</p> <p>20 travelling to where we were. The fire was blue and red</p> <p>21 in colour. The flames looked so close I thought to</p> <p>22 myself in a couple of minutes the flames will be inside</p> <p>23 Flat 113. The flames were less than 5 metres away from</p> <p>24 the window. I looked down towards the ground but the</p> <p>25 flames were coming mainly from the top and travelling</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>



1 down towards us."

2 Just, again, so that we can be clear, you've got two

3 windows that you say you looked out of and they look out

4 in the same direction, and the flat next door is your

5 flat, flat 112.

6 Is it possible that what you've described in this

7 paragraph was something that you could've seen from that

8 living room window?

9 **A. I think you could see that from both windows, living**

10 **room and the bedroom, because the fire was spreading**

11 **from the left side and the top of our windows, of 113**

12 **windows.**

13 Q. Could we then just pick it up at paragraph 32 on the

14 same page, please.

15 I am just going to take you through this paragraph,

16 Mr Alhajali.

17 MR FRIEDMAN: Could we have a break?

18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Do you think this would be a good

19 moment?

20 MR RAWAT: It would, actually, be a good moment.

21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We are getting to an important of

22 the evidence, aren't we?

23 MR RAWAT: Yes.

24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think we'll have another break,

25 Mr Alhajali. I'll say 12.05 to give you a bit of time

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1 to stretch your legs and recover.

2 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right?

4 Please don't talk to anyone about your evidence.

5 All right?

6 12.05, then, please.

7 (11.53 am)

8 (A short break)

9 (12.05 pm)

10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Alhajali?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes, thank you.

12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Happy to carry on? Right, thank

13 you.

14 Yes, Mr Rawat.

15 MR RAWAT: Thank you, sir.

16 Could we have, please, on the screen IWS00000781,

17 page 11, please. Paragraph 32, if we can.

18 Mr Alhajali, we are now coming to that point in the

19 night when you left flat 113, and in this paragraph you

20 speak of the arrival of firefighters at the flat door.

21 Before we get into that detail, I just want to ask

22 you just to go back a little bit in time. I just want

23 to ask you a couple of questions about what was going on

24 in the flat just before the firefighters arrived. Do

25 you follow?

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1 **A. (Nodded assent)**

2 Q. The first thing is you say, "At nearly 3:00 am", that's

3 how you begin the paragraph. What do you base that

4 timing on?

5 **A. The timing, maybe, checking time on the phone, or maybe**

6 **I checked the time after I left straight away, so I base**

7 **that on -- on the time --**

8 Q. Do you have a clear memory, after you'd left and were

9 outside the tower, of checking the time on the phone?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. What time did it give you, your phone, when you left the

12 tower?

13 **A. Around 3 o'clock, but I'm not sure exactly what time is,**

14 **yes.**

15 Q. At about this time and before anybody had arrived at

16 flat 113, what were the conditions like in the flat?

17 **A. It was getting hotter. Everyone was scared and**

18 **panicked, and the smoke was getting thicker. And we**

19 **could smell it more than before, actually.**

20 Q. Where was the smoke coming into the flat from?

21 **A. From the front door.**

22 Q. Whereabouts in the flat was it getting thicker?

23 **A. In the corridor, going into the bedrooms, I think, yes.**

24 Q. What about the living room?

25 **A. I'm not sure about the living room. Not really clear.**

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1 Q. Do you remember whether -- I'm sorry to interrupt, you

2 were going to say something.

3 **A. No, it's fine, I'm just trying to remember if it was**

4 **really dark as well in the living room or not, but**

5 **I don't remember because I'm not sure where I was at**

6 **that time, if I was in the bedroom or the living room,**

7 **yes.**

8 Q. Thank you.

9 You probably pre-empted my next question, which was

10 to ask you whether you remember whether there were any

11 lights on in the flat?

12 **A. Yes, we had light, but not in the corridor, it was dark**

13 **in the corridor. So we had light in the bedroom.**

14 **That's what I remember, yes.**

15 Q. Do you remember any lights on in the living room?

16 **A. Before, yes, and after, not really sure.**

17 Q. In the corridor, the hallway that leads to the front

18 door, what was the visibility like at that time?

19 **A. Hard, like you cannot see clearly, like it's not --**

20 **maybe it was like you could see for maybe -- if someone**

21 **is close to you, you can see him, but not really far,**

22 **yes.**

23 Q. Was that difficulty just in the hallway?

24 **A. In the hallway, yes.**

25 Q. Doing the best you can, can you help us with this: just

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1 before the firemen came, where was everyone in the flat,  
 2 can you remember?  
 3 **A. I don't remember, but I remembered that we were in the**  
 4 **bedroom, but not sure if it was when the firefighter**  
 5 **opened -- when they opened the door. Not sure if at**  
 6 **that time we were in the bedroom or not, because we**  
 7 **started to just move around and trying to look**  
 8 **everywhere, yes.**  
 9 Q. So at that time, do you still have a clear recollection  
 10 of people moving around within the flat?  
 11 **A. Not sure if everyone was going to other rooms or to the**  
 12 **living room or not. But I remembered most of the time**  
 13 **we were in one room together and moving in the same room**  
 14 **together, yes.**  
 15 Q. What room was that?  
 16 **A. I think it's the bedroom. Yes. And that was because of**  
 17 **the double bed, again, yes.**  
 18 Q. I'll just read out paragraph 32:  
 19 "32. At nearly 3:00am the fire was very close to us  
 20 when I noticed that someone had opened the front door  
 21 and the firemen were there. I think Mohammad was in the  
 22 living room. I saw Olu running towards the front door.  
 23 I did not hear a knock. We were all in the living room.  
 24 There was smoke in the living room but not as much as in  
 25 the hallway and next to the front door. Olu started to

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1 run towards the front door so I followed him. He was  
 2 with his daughter and wife. When the fireman came to  
 3 the door, the smoke was very strong. I tried to look  
 4 back behind me but I could not see anything because of  
 5 how thick the smoke was in the hallway around the door  
 6 area. Before the door was open there was a little bit  
 7 of smoke; when the door was opened thick and black smoke  
 8 was coming in."  
 9 Taking it as of today, before you saw any firemen,  
 10 did you hear any knocking at the front door?  
 11 **A. No.**  
 12 Q. Did you see anyone open the front door?  
 13 **A. Not at that time. I could hear a little bit voices next**  
 14 **to the door, but couldn't really see someone opening the**  
 15 **door, no.**  
 16 Q. Why was it that you could only hear voices and not see  
 17 someone?  
 18 **A. Because I hear the voices, and when I hear the voices,**  
 19 **I then try to go to check in the front door.**  
 20 Q. Well, let's do it with the plan, MET00012593, please.  
 21 So where were you when you heard voices?  
 22 **A. This is what I don't remember, actually, but**  
 23 **I remembered myself following Olu or his partner,**  
 24 **Rosemary, and trying to follow them and check the voices**  
 25 **that's coming from the front door. So not sure if that**

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1 **time it was the bedroom or the living room.**  
 2 **Here is saying the living room, but I think that**  
 3 **was -- that's not really, you know, certain or**  
 4 **100 per cent, yes.**  
 5 Q. So the best that you can do today is to say you may have  
 6 been in the living room or in a bedroom?  
 7 **A. I think it's the bedroom because most of the time we**  
 8 **were in the bedroom.**  
 9 Q. When you heard voices and you followed, where did you  
 10 go?  
 11 **A. Where did I go?**  
 12 Q. Yes, when you heard these voices.  
 13 **A. I was going towards the front door, behind -- I think it**  
 14 **was Olu. I think it's behind Olu.**  
 15 Q. When you say you were following, were you walking or --  
 16 **A. Walking, yes.**  
 17 Q. What was Olu doing?  
 18 **A. I think he was moving quickly, maybe running, maybe**  
 19 **walking, not sure.**  
 20 Q. We can see the hall on that plan that's up on the screen  
 21 there.  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. You can see that there's a bend, so it's an inverse  
 24 L-shape. Can you remember where you were when you first  
 25 saw a firefighter?

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1 **A. I think it's the bedroom, but still not really sure if**  
 2 **it's the bedroom or the living room. Yes. But I think**  
 3 **it's the bedroom because most of the time recently we**  
 4 **were in the bedroom.**  
 5 Q. Again, please clarify this, because you said that you'd  
 6 heard voices --  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. -- and then you followed Olu?  
 9 **A. Shall I point at that?**  
 10 Q. Do you now remember being in a room and being able to  
 11 see a firefighter?  
 12 **A. I couldn't see, I could hear, and maybe I could see**  
 13 **shape of someone, but not really seeing a firefighter.**  
 14 **Yes.**  
 15 Q. What is it that you could hear?  
 16 **A. I could hear people saying, "Let's go, let's go", or**  
 17 **something like shouting or something like that. Yes.**  
 18 Q. Do you have a clear recollection of seeing shapes?  
 19 **A. I think I saw -- not really how many -- one or two**  
 20 **maximum.**  
 21 Q. Where were those shapes?  
 22 **A. Just at this area here, (Indicates), exactly here. Or**  
 23 **maximum by this area here in the corridor. Not far from**  
 24 **the front door.**  
 25 Q. Do you remember seeing those shapes before you went into

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<p>1 the hallway?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>3 Q. So where were you standing when you saw those shapes?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I remember I was coming either from the bedroom,</b></p> <p>5 <b>following Olu, then here where I stopped seeing anything</b></p> <p>6 <b>(Indicates).</b></p> <p>7 <b>Or it might be I was coming from this area</b></p> <p>8 <b>(Indicates), but what I remembered, I remembered that</b></p> <p>9 <b>everyone else was behind me, not front of me.</b></p> <p>10 Q. So take that in stages.</p> <p>11 Who do you remember being in front of you?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Olu only, yes, that's what I saw in front of me. And</b></p> <p>13 <b>maybe his partner too, but not the rest in front of me.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Do you remember how they were carrying their daughter?</p> <p>15 <b>A. No, I couldn't see that.</b></p> <p>16 Q. So you've heard voices, and then you say that you may</p> <p>17 have either been in the bedroom or the living room.</p> <p>18 Just so that we can say where the record was, just</p> <p>19 help us, where exactly do you think you were when you</p> <p>20 saw these shapes?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I think it was the bedroom, yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. But were you in the hallway before you saw the shapes or</p> <p>23 were you still in the bedroom when you saw the shapes?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I was still in the bedroom, and maybe -- yes, I think</b></p> <p>25 <b>I was in the bedroom, yes. Yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 Q. You then heard voices and you recall following Olu.</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes, Olu or his partner or two of them, I think, yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. So you then left either the living room or the bedroom;</p> <p>4 is that right?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes, but I would say mostly the bedroom, yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. When you first saw shapes, can you use that plan just to</p> <p>7 indicate where you were when you first saw shapes?</p> <p>8 <b>A. When I arrived to the hallway, I remember that</b></p> <p>9 <b>I couldn't see anymore, I got lost here (Indicates),</b></p> <p>10 <b>because of the smoke, how it was very thick, dark, so</b></p> <p>11 <b>I started to move, going here, left and right and left</b></p> <p>12 <b>and right, and hitting the wall sometimes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Before you got to that point, could you see shapes?</p> <p>14 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>15 Q. So was it at that point that you had an idea of shapes?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Just for the record, that is at the bend in the hall,</p> <p>18 where it would bend, if one is walking from the front</p> <p>19 door, turning right towards the lounge.</p> <p>20 How many shapes could you see?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I heard many voices, but I could see one shape, I think.</b></p> <p>22 <b>Yes. One or two maximum. I think I started to see many</b></p> <p>23 <b>shapes closer to the door, front door.</b></p> <p>24 Q. When you say closer to the front door, were these shapes</p> <p>25 inside the flat or --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 Q. So do you remember when the bedroom door had been</p> <p>2 opened?</p> <p>3 <b>A. What time, you mean?</b></p> <p>4 Q. Yes.</p> <p>5 <b>A. Not sure what time, but nearly around 3 o'clock, yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Why is it that you recall it being opened at nearly</p> <p>7 around 3 o'clock?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Because I checked the time after I left the tower.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Do you remember who opened the bedroom door?</p> <p>10 <b>A. No, the bedroom door, no.</b></p> <p>11 Q. So --</p> <p>12 <b>A. I don't know if it was closed or open as well. Yes.</b></p> <p>13 <b>Not sure.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Would you accept that for you to be able to see shapes</p> <p>15 from the bedroom, the bedroom door would have had to be</p> <p>16 open?</p> <p>17 <b>A. No, I could see shapes when I was in the corridor, in</b></p> <p>18 <b>the hallway.</b></p> <p>19 Q. I don't want to get you confused, so if we can just take</p> <p>20 it again in steps.</p> <p>21 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>22 Q. You were either in the living room or the bedroom.</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. And it's the bedroom with the double bed in it.</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes, and I think mostly in the bedroom.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 <b>A. I think because it was open, the door, that time, so</b></p> <p>2 <b>I could see out of the door, not inside.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Just help us with this: if the front door was open, what</p> <p>4 were the conditions like in the hallway?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Very dark, very smoky, and I couldn't see anything and</b></p> <p>6 <b>I couldn't even breathe that time.</b></p> <p>7 Q. That was even before you'd got into the communal area?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Whilst you were still in the hallway, did you have</p> <p>10 a sense of what the conditions were like in the communal</p> <p>11 area?</p> <p>12 <b>A. The condition, it was -- when they opened the door, when</b></p> <p>13 <b>I started to hear these voices, and I went to the</b></p> <p>14 <b>hallway here, where I couldn't see anything, but I heard</b></p> <p>15 <b>voices next to the door, and I realised that the door is</b></p> <p>16 <b>open because of the voices and how thick the smoke was</b></p> <p>17 <b>coming in. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. We've talked about shapes and voices; was there anything</p> <p>19 else about these shapes that indicated that they were</p> <p>20 firefighters?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Any other -- sorry, again?</b></p> <p>22 Q. Was there anything else about the shapes that told you</p> <p>23 that it was firefighters at the front door?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I think I heard someone or people saying, "Let's go,</b></p> <p>25 <b>let's go" or "Walk", something like that.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 Q. Do you have a recollection of seeing anybody wearing 2 a mask?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>4 Q. You've described that your recollection is Olu in front 5 of you and possibly Rosemary.</p> <p>6 Where was your brother Mohammad?</p> <p>7 <b>A. At that time, not sure, but I remembered that he was 8 behind me, but not sure where exactly. But I remembered 9 following Olu to check what's happening outside and he 10 was behind me somewhere.</b></p> <p>11 Q. When you say behind you, how close behind you was your 12 brother?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Very close. We were next to each other. I just walked 14 to check. So maybe he waited for me to check, I'm not 15 sure what he did.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Do you remember what your brother was doing just before 17 you heard the voices at the front door?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I remember we were talking to each other, but when 19 I started to follow Olu, I don't remember what he was 20 doing.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Can you remember where Denis was?</p> <p>22 <b>A. No. Don't remember.</b></p> <p>23 Q. And what about Zainab and her son, can you remember 24 where they were at this time?</p> <p>25 <b>A. I think next to the bed. I think her son was on the</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 Firefighter Herrera?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No, that didn't happen.</b></p> <p>3 Q. What is it that makes you sure that it didn't happen?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Because that time I knew that everyone is behind me. 5 Not everyone, but the rest. And I didn't search the 6 rooms to make sure that no one else was in the flat, and 7 in the hallway I couldn't see or breathe to even talk or 8 have a conversation, and I couldn't see anyone, only 9 shape.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Can we just look --</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Sorry, can I just ask: did you have 12 any words with the fireman? Did he say anything to you 13 or did you say anything to him?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Nothing at all. I didn't have any conversation. 15 I remember myself being pulled out, that's only what 16 I remembered. Yes. Nothing else. I didn't have any 17 conversation.</b></p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, thank you.</p> <p>19 MR RAWAT: Which point in the flat had you reached when you 20 recall being pulled out?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Not far from the door. In the hallway, I think, yes. 22 So I was lost trying to walk around, trying to see 23 anything, touching walls, and then someone pulled me out 24 and pushed me outside.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Was that by the front door?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 <b>bed, but not sure where she was exactly.</b></p> <p>2 Q. One of the places that you put yourself as coming from 3 was the lounge.</p> <p>4 Do you remember whether the lights were on in the 5 lounge at this time?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I don't remember, no.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Do you remember whether the door to the lounge was open 8 or closed?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I don't remember as well if it was open or closed, but 10 I don't think on my way to the hallway, I saw a closed 11 door. Everything was opened, yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. As you know -- and I'm going to do it by putting up your 13 supplementary statement, which is IWS00001052, please. 14 Can we expand paragraph 2.</p> <p>15 You've set out in your supplementary statement part 16 of the account given in a statement by Firefighter Peter 17 Herrera. He has also given oral evidence to the 18 inquiry.</p> <p>19 His account -- and I'm summarising -- is of seeing 20 a silhouette walking into the lounge of flat 113 and 21 speaking with a man with a Middle Eastern accent. 22 Firefighter Herrera has said that he asked this man if 23 there was anyone else in the flat and the man replied 24 "No, I am the last one."</p> <p>25 Did you have a conversation like that with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. You've said that Olu was in front of you and you've told 3 us about Rosemary, and you've given evidence that 4 everyone was behind you.</p> <p>5 Do you have a recollection of a firefighter coming 6 into the lounge area at all?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Do you remember a firefighter coming into the bedroom at 9 all?</p> <p>10 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>11 Q. We've seen how the hallway has a bend in it, and there's 12 a right-hand turn as it goes towards the lounge.</p> <p>13 Do you remember a firefighter being in the part of 14 the hallway that led to the lounge at all?</p> <p>15 <b>A. No, I remembered the only time I started to see a shape, 16 it was just in the hallway, not far from the front door. 17 Very close to the front door.</b></p> <p>18 Q. If we could just have the whole of that statement, 19 please, for a moment.</p> <p>20 Mr Alhajali, when we began with your evidence, 21 I pointed out that although you'd signed the statement, 22 it wasn't dated. There is, however, a date at the top 23 of the statement, which is 5 September 2018. We know 24 that Firefighter Herrera gave evidence on 6 September. 25 Can I just ask, Ralph, if you could expand</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 80</p>

1 paragraph 3, please.  
 2 You say there, as you've said today, that  
 3 Firefighter Herrera's account is not true.  
 4 You continue:  
 5 "Most of the time we were in flat we were in the  
 6 living room area, but people would often walk around the  
 7 flat, just not knowing what to do or looking for an idea  
 8 to get out. Mohammad was in the living room, and I was  
 9 in the hallway, not far from the front door when the  
 10 door opened."  
 11 What you've told us today, in October, was that all  
 12 you can remember is that Mohammad was behind you.  
 13 Why were you able on 5 September to say that  
 14 Mohammad was in the living room?  
 15 **A. This is what I'm -- I knew that we were all in one**  
 16 **bedroom, either the bedroom or the living room, but I'm**  
 17 **not 100 per cent sure if it's the bedroom. So maybe**  
 18 **I said the living room because I didn't check how it**  
 19 **looks around me, the flat or -- but I knew that we were**  
 20 **most of us or all of us in one room.**  
 21 **Maybe I said the living room because I got lost in**  
 22 **the hallway, so I didn't really remember where I came**  
 23 **from, either the bedroom or the living room. Yes.**  
 24 Q. So where it says Mohammad was in the living room, is  
 25 that something you can stand by today?

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1 **A. Just because everyone was in the same bedroom or living**  
 2 **room, so I knew Mohammad was with them. Yes.**  
 3 Q. So is the best that you can do today to say that what  
 4 you recall is that Mohammad was with everybody else?  
 5 **A. Yes.**  
 6 Q. And that could've been either in a bedroom or in  
 7 a living room?  
 8 **A. Yes.**  
 9 Q. What you don't mention in that paragraph is bedroom.  
 10 **A. It's what, sorry?**  
 11 Q. That paragraph doesn't contain the word "bedroom", does  
 12 it?  
 13 **A. Yes, I think it was just misunderstanding, because**  
 14 **I said that time when I was giving evidence that I don't**  
 15 **remember exactly if it's the living room or the bedroom,**  
 16 **but it has been written as the living room, yes.**  
 17 Q. So when you made this statement, were you at the time of  
 18 making the statement unclear about whether it was the  
 19 bedroom or the living room?  
 20 **A. Yes.**  
 21 Q. But the person helping you with the statement didn't  
 22 record that it could've been the bedroom?  
 23 **A. Yes.**  
 24 Q. When you signed that statement, did you not check the  
 25 statement to see whether or not it referred to bedroom?

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1 **A. I read it, but I didn't really check exactly these**  
 2 **words, living room or bedroom, because I wasn't sure**  
 3 **about it, so I didn't really, you know, focus on that,**  
 4 **yes.**  
 5 Q. So if we pull it together, and doing the best that you  
 6 can today, the best that you can say is that your  
 7 brother and others were behind you?  
 8 **A. Yes.**  
 9 Q. But you can't be sure of which room they were in?  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. Thank you.  
 12 Can we go back, please, to your first statement, and  
 13 go, please, to page 12. If we pick up paragraph 33,  
 14 please.  
 15 You've already given us some detail about how you  
 16 left the flat, but I just want to ask some additional  
 17 details, please.  
 18 You've told us that you remember being pulled out of  
 19 the flat. Once you got into the communal area, were you  
 20 assisted at all?  
 21 **A. When I've been pulled out, I remember that I've been**  
 22 **pulled out to the communal area, and here where**  
 23 **I stopped completely breathing, and I was just breathing**  
 24 **smoke, and couldn't really see anything.**  
 25 **But I remembered myself being hit by or being --**

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1 **I touched someone, I think a firefighter or someone, but**  
 2 **he pushed me again towards the stairs, and another one**  
 3 **as well pushed me, so they were pushing me all the time**  
 4 **and directing me where to go. I wasn't walking, I was**  
 5 **pushed, actually, and I tried to talk or shout at that**  
 6 **time or saying or anything, and I tried to say that I'm**  
 7 **not breathing or I tried to say -- to shout to say to**  
 8 **check where is my brother. But I couldn't at all,**  
 9 **I couldn't see. I've been pushed that time.**  
 10 Q. Do you remember getting any instructions as to which  
 11 direction to go?  
 12 **A. No, just they were pushing me, that's what I remember,**  
 13 **yes.**  
 14 Q. You've described in your statement the conditions in the  
 15 communal area.  
 16 Did the firefighters have torches or anything like  
 17 that?  
 18 **A. I don't know, but I couldn't see anything at all. So**  
 19 **even if they had, maybe because of the smoke, we**  
 20 **couldn't see. Not sure, yes.**  
 21 Q. When you got into the stairwell, was there any  
 22 difference in the conditions in the stairwell from the  
 23 communal area?  
 24 **A. No, it was very thick smoke, the hallway, until the 3rd**  
 25 **or 2nd floor, where I started to breathe again.**

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1 Q. Was it only when you got to those lower floors that  
 2 there was any light?  
 3 **A. I think I started to see lights, yes, on either 3rd or**  
 4 **2nd floor, and I started to have fresh air or maybe some**  
 5 **air, yes.**  
 6 Q. Do you remember whether there was any difference in the  
 7 temperature of the communal area and the temperature of  
 8 the stairwell?  
 9 **A. It was very hot in the stair, and even in the communal**  
 10 **area, it was the same exactly.**  
 11 Q. When you say "very hot", what do you mean by "very hot"?  
 12 **A. I could feel the heat of the smoke on my face, throat,**  
 13 **on my skin, everywhere, yes.**  
 14 Q. You describe -- it's in paragraph 35 -- that you got  
 15 down the stairwell and you got to the main entrance.  
 16 When were you first aware that your brother was not  
 17 behind you? When was that?  
 18 **A. When I arrived to the ground floor, here I looked behind**  
 19 **me, because at the beginning I thought he's behind me**  
 20 **and he's being pulled out, same as me. So I was running**  
 21 **and walking on the stairs, and when I arrived, I checked**  
 22 **behind, but I didn't see him. So here is where**  
 23 **I thought maybe he was still in the flat, yes.**  
 24 Q. I just want now to show you some CCTV stills.  
 25 Mr Chairman, they are stills taken just by the main

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1 entrance, and they show firefighters and they show  
 2 people leaving the tower. Those are images that may be  
 3 distressing to some that are here, so I will just pause  
 4 briefly if anyone wants to leave, but I think no one has  
 5 indicated such.  
 6 What I am going to do, as I take you through these  
 7 stills, Mr Alhajali, I am going to give what's called  
 8 the adjusted time, which is the best estimate that we  
 9 can give, with the assistance of our experts, for the  
 10 real time on the camera. All right?  
 11 **A. Okay.**  
 12 Q. Can we have, first of all, INQ0000446, please.  
 13 The adjusted time for this still is 02.44.08.  
 14 Just for the record, Mr Alhajali, can you confirm  
 15 that that's you there?  
 16 **A. Yes.**  
 17 Q. We see that you've got an open shirt. What colour is  
 18 that shirt?  
 19 **A. Navy, I think, navy. The jacket, you mean?**  
 20 Q. A jacket, sorry.  
 21 **A. It's a tracksuit jacket.**  
 22 Q. A tracksuit jacket?  
 23 **A. Yes.**  
 24 Q. Aside from being navy, did it have any markings on it?  
 25 **A. I think red lines but don't remember any marks.**

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1 Q. Just so that you can see the context in which the  
 2 questions I'm going to ask you are going to come, can we  
 3 have INQ0000447, please.  
 4 Again, the adjusted time for this is 02.44.11.  
 5 We can see that there's a figure wearing what looks  
 6 like black tracksuit bottoms, grey shoes and a navy blue  
 7 jacket. Is that you there?  
 8 **A. Yes.**  
 9 Q. If we go now to INQ0000449.  
 10 The adjusted time for this is 02.44.32.  
 11 Could we expand the top half of that image, if  
 12 that's possible. There's someone wearing a white helmet  
 13 and a jacket with "FIRE" written on it.  
 14 We can see there on the expanded image there are two  
 15 firefighters, one without a helmet and one with a white  
 16 helmet, and facing almost towards the camera is a man  
 17 with a beard.  
 18 Can you confirm, is that you?  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. Can you tell us what was happening in this?  
 21 **A. I remembered asking them, "Where is my brother?" and**  
 22 **telling them maybe he's still in the flat, and I'm sure**  
 23 **that he's still in the flat because he's not with me.**  
 24 **And I was pointed as well where I came from, and**  
 25 **I didn't see my brother. Yes.**

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1 **So they were just listening to me, and I remembered**  
 2 **someone asked me, "Where you came from?" I said 113,**  
 3 **and he wrote that on my hand before I left the tower.**  
 4 **Yes.**  
 5 Q. You say someone asked you. Can you help whether it was  
 6 one of the two firefighters that we see?  
 7 **A. No, I don't remember.**  
 8 Q. We can see that you appear to have your hand raised in  
 9 this image. Can you tell us what you were doing? Does  
 10 that help as to what you were doing?  
 11 **A. I think I was telling them my brother is still upstairs.**  
 12 Q. This is taken in the main entrance. Was it there where  
 13 you were asked what flat you'd come from and somebody  
 14 wrote it on your hand?  
 15 **A. Yes.**  
 16 Q. When you were talking to firefighters by the main  
 17 entrance, did you tell them which flat your brother was  
 18 in?  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. Do you know what they did with that information? Did  
 21 you see what they did with that information?  
 22 **A. Nothing, someone said, "Maybe he's panicked".**  
 23 Q. When you say someone said, "Maybe he's panicked", who is  
 24 the "he"?  
 25 **A. The firefighter next to the one who wrote 113 on my**

Page 88

<p>1 <b>hand.</b></p> <p>2 Q. And who was the person that firefighter was saying was</p> <p>3 panicked?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I don't know who is he, but I hear a man's voice, yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. You heard a man's voice saying, "Maybe he's panicked"?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Let's go to the next image, INQ00000450, please.</p> <p>8 Again, if we could expand the top part as much as</p> <p>9 possible.</p> <p>10 The adjusted time, for the record, for this image is</p> <p>11 02.44.43.</p> <p>12 There are three firefighters in the image: one with</p> <p>13 a white helmet, one without a helmet and then the third</p> <p>14 who is on the left of the image as we look at it with</p> <p>15 a torch on his jacket.</p> <p>16 Behind the firefighter with the white helmet we can</p> <p>17 see the top half of someone's head.</p> <p>18 Can you confirm whether that's you or not?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes, that's me.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Again, that person has an arm raised. Does that help</p> <p>21 you to tell us what was going on at that time?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I think I was telling them about my brother most of the</b></p> <p>23 <b>time, and as well telling them where I came from.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Did you mention anybody else who had been in flat 113 to</p> <p>25 these firefighters?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 Can you remember where you were when you first</p> <p>2 called him?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Just next to the tower, not really far. Not next to</b></p> <p>4 <b>the -- they pushed me a bit far from the main entrance,</b></p> <p>5 <b>but not that far from the tower. Very close. And I was</b></p> <p>6 <b>walking towards the children's playground area.</b></p> <p>7 Q. What you say in this paragraph was:</p> <p>8 "While I was still on the phone to Mohammad I walked</p> <p>9 over to a fireman inside the tower and told them that my</p> <p>10 brother was still in the flat and could not get out.</p> <p>11 I was saying, 'Please go upstairs, please. There are</p> <p>12 children upstairs'. The person that I was talking to</p> <p>13 had a mask on."</p> <p>14 Just again so we can be clear of the sequence, you</p> <p>15 get out of the tower, as we've seen in the CCTV stills,</p> <p>16 you phone your brother, and do you then go back towards</p> <p>17 the tower?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes, I came back to the main entrance of the tower.</b></p> <p>19 Q. And was that where you had this conversation with</p> <p>20 a firefighter?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. What you also say is:</p> <p>23 "Some firefighters were saying that they were sure</p> <p>24 that they took everyone out."</p> <p>25 When did you hear that?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 <b>A. Yes, I did mention children as well. I did say a child,</b></p> <p>2 <b>an old man and my brother. I don't remember saying</b></p> <p>3 <b>Zainab too, because I wasn't sure where she was, but</b></p> <p>4 <b>I remembered saying children, so maybe that they can do</b></p> <p>5 <b>something, because I knew that a child was in the flat.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Do you remember telling them how many people had been in</p> <p>7 the flat before you left it?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I don't remember saying how many, but I was trying to</b></p> <p>9 <b>tell them who is in the flat. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Can we just go now to the last image in the sequence,</p> <p>11 and it's INQ00000458. Again, if we could expand the top</p> <p>12 part of the image.</p> <p>13 Can you see that just in the doorway there's</p> <p>14 a firefighter with a helmet? Ahead of that firefighter,</p> <p>15 it looks like there's a man there. Are you able to say</p> <p>16 from that image whether that's you or not?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes, that's me.</b></p> <p>18 Q. That seems to be you now leaving the tower, and for the</p> <p>19 record, the adjusted time is 02.45.15.</p> <p>20 We'll go back to your witness statement, please, and</p> <p>21 it's the first witness statement, IWS00000781 at</p> <p>22 page 13. If we expand paragraph 36, please.</p> <p>23 You explain there that you made a telephone call</p> <p>24 with your brother Mohammad, who told you that he was</p> <p>25 still in flat 113.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 <b>A. I heard someone was saying that, but not for me, for the</b></p> <p>2 <b>other firefighters, he was saying, "We took everyone</b></p> <p>3 <b>out", and then I started to say, "No, my brother's still</b></p> <p>4 <b>in the flat and he's on the phone with me, and there's</b></p> <p>5 <b>other people with him as well."</b></p> <p>6 Q. Did you give the firefighters any information about who</p> <p>7 else was with your brother?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes. I was saying an old man, a child, a woman and my</b></p> <p>9 <b>brother. Because Mohammad told me that time about who</b></p> <p>10 <b>else was with him in the flat.</b></p> <p>11 Q. The firefighters who were saying they were sure that</p> <p>12 they took everyone out, where were they?</p> <p>13 <b>A. They were just close to the tower, out of the tower,</b></p> <p>14 <b>yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. So were they outside the tower but close to the main</p> <p>16 entrance?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes, close, but not very, very close, yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Was there anything about them that allowed you to say</p> <p>19 whether or not they had been the firefighters who had</p> <p>20 taken people out of flat 113?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Say that again.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Sorry, I'll put that in a different way.</p> <p>23 You say that some firefighters were saying they were</p> <p>24 sure that they took everyone out.</p> <p>25 Could you tell if the firefighters who were saying</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 that had actually been involved in taking people out of 2 flat 113? 3 <b>A. I didn't know because I couldn't see who brought me out 4 and I couldn't see faces, so I didn't know if it's the 5 same people or not.</b> 6 Q. Can I take you to page 15 of your statement, please, and 7 we'll look at paragraph 42. 8 Just, again, to set it in context, you've described 9 in this part of your statement that a friend, Farah, 10 came over and helped you to calm down, you say: 11 "I was too upset to be calmed down. I was coughing a 12 lot and the paramedic came over and gave me an oxygen 13 mask." 14 Was that the first time you'd been given an oxygen 15 mask? 16 <b>A. Yes, it was, next to Latimer Road station, that area, 17 under the tree. Because that wasn't the first place 18 I went to. The first place I went to, it was next to 19 the playground area, and the second time they told us to 20 go to that place not far from the station.</b> 21 Q. Let's go to your second statement, please, and can we 22 look at IWS00001052 and page 2. 23 In this second statement, you deal with a second 24 part of Firefighter Herrera's written statement. 25 It's also something that he has given evidence about</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 you -- 2 <b>A. No.</b> 3 Q. -- as someone who had been inside flat 113? 4 <b>A. No.</b> 5 Q. Did this conversation happen? 6 <b>A. No.</b> 7 Q. You've told us about the effect that coming through the 8 communal area and down the stairwell had on you 9 physically. You've said that you were upset and Farah 10 had to calm you down. 11 Is it at all possible that you could be mistaken 12 when you say that this conversation didn't happen? 13 <b>A. No, I'm sure it didn't happen, because I was on the 14 phone with my brother and he cannot pray at the same 15 time and talking to me at the same time. And what 16 I remembered, we were reading just Qur'an, but not 17 praying in the flat. Yes.</b> 18 Q. So when you were in the flat, you read Qur'an together? 19 <b>A. Yes.</b> 20 Q. When you were on the phone with your brother, did he 21 read the Qur'an at all to you? 22 <b>A. No.</b> 23 Q. Did he say anything about the Qur'an to you? 24 <b>A. No, he was just saying me, "I didn't see anyone, where 25 everyone -- where did you go? How did you go?" Yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 to the chairman. 2 What he says is that he came across you by the 3 playground area. You were on your phone and you said, 4 "My brother's still in there, I'm still on the phone to 5 him, he's on his knees praying." You also said "I was 6 mistaken." 7 Taking that in stages, where were you when you first 8 received oxygen? 9 <b>A. I was next to the station, Latimer station, a space 10 there, I'm not sure what it's called, but under the 11 tree. Yes.</b> 12 Q. Did you receive oxygen in the playground area? 13 <b>A. No, just water.</b> 14 Q. Do you remember having any conversation with 15 a firefighter where you said, "My brother is still in 16 there, I'm still on the phone to him, he's on his knees 17 praying"? 18 <b>A. That didn't happen, no. I just spoke to firefighter and 19 I was saying that I am on the phone with my brother, but 20 I didn't say I was mistaken and I didn't say he was 21 praying.</b> 22 Q. Just so we can be clear, it's your evidence that you 23 didn't say "I was mistaken"? 24 <b>A. No, I didn't say that.</b> 25 Q. Did any firefighter introduce himself or herself to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 Q. You made more than one phone call with your brother, 2 didn't you? 3 <b>A. Yes, many calls, yes.</b> 4 Q. Did he tell you where he and those who had remained in 5 the flat were in the flat? 6 <b>A. They were next to him, but he didn't tell me where he 7 was, if it was bedroom or living room, but he told me 8 that he could see everyone next to him, Zainab, her son 9 and Denis.</b> 10 Q. Did he tell you anything about the conditions in the 11 flat? 12 <b>A. Yes.</b> 13 Q. Did he tell you anything about the smoke in the flat? 14 <b>A. Yes. He told me the smoke was coming inside, and I can 15 see that others stopped breathing.</b> 16 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, I've no further questions, but may 17 I ask for a short break so that I can check if there are 18 any supplementaries. 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, of course. 20 Well, those are all the questions that Mr Rawat 21 thinks he has at the moment, but we normally have 22 a short break so that he can check his notes and 23 consider the matter. 24 So we'll stop now until 1 o'clock, and then I'm 25 going to ask you to come back at 1 o'clock and we'll see</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>



<p>1 if there are any more questions at that stage. All 2 right? 3 THE WITNESS: Okay. 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So would you like to go with the 5 usher, please. 6 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: She'll look after you. 8 All right, 1 o'clock, then, please. 9 (12.53 pm) 10 (A short break) 11 (1.00 pm) 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? Happy to face a few more 13 questions, I suspect. 14 Yes, Mr Rawat? 15 MR RAWAT: Yes, sir. 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: A few, yes, good. 17 MR RAWAT: Very briefly. 18 Can I just return, Mr Alhajali, to the calls that 19 you had with your brother. 20 When you were on the telephone to Mohammad, did he 21 tell you whether he had seen any firefighters? 22 <b>A. He told me, "I didn't see any firefighters".</b> 23 Q. Did he tell you where he had been when you left the 24 flat? 25 <b>A. No. But he told me, "I am with the others, Zainab, her</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 <b>A. No, we had leaking.</b> 2 Q. But we can see -- and please confirm this -- did the 3 pipes go into -- 4 <b>A. Yes.</b> 5 Q. -- your flat? 6 <b>A. Yes. It went into my flat on the top of our door, the</b> 7 <b>hallway, to the corridor, until the kitchen area.</b> 8 Q. Was there anything about the work that was done in 9 putting those pipes through into your flat that caused 10 you concern? 11 <b>A. Yes, it was showing, we could see inside the flat, and</b> 12 <b>then just the owner of the flat requested for that to be</b> 13 <b>covered because it's very dangerous, it seems very</b> 14 <b>dangerous showing, and they said we cannot do any works</b> 15 <b>inside the walls because it will cause lots of damage,</b> 16 <b>so we have to do it uncovered and showing.</b> 17 Q. So your concern was that the pipes were visible? 18 <b>A. Yes, they were visible.</b> 19 Q. Can I turn, then, to the final matter that I want to put 20 to you. 21 I want to begin by thanking you for coming to give 22 evidence, and also thanking you for the witness 23 statements that you've made. 24 Putting aside the witness statements, and the 25 answers that you've given to my questions today, is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 <b>son and Denis", but he didn't tell me if it was bedroom</b> 2 <b>or living room.</b> 3 Q. Could I please have up -- and again, if I just perhaps 4 give the usual warning. I'm about to show you 5 a photograph which is of essentially your flat door and 6 the flat door of flat 111, which was taken before the 7 fire, but if that is an image that may distress anybody, 8 then they should take an opportunity to leave now, but 9 I don't think anybody is, Mr Chairman. 10 Can I have, please, IWS00001001, and then page 005, 11 please. 12 Mr Alhajali, a little earlier I asked you questions 13 showing you a photograph of the lobby area on floor 6 14 and you told us about how you would go from the lifts to 15 your own flat. We can see your flat door here, 112, 16 with the letterbox. 17 Above it, you can see pipes which are at ceiling 18 level. 19 Can you tell us what you understood those pipes were 20 for? 21 <b>A. It was gas pipes.</b> 22 Q. I think in your statement you say that you didn't have 23 a gas supply to your flat, did you? 24 <b>A. Yes.</b> 25 Q. It wasn't working at the time?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 there anything else about what you saw or heard on the 2 night of the fire that you think it important to tell 3 the chairman? 4 <b>A. I just would like to say that I respect the</b> 5 <b>firefighters, some of them who tried to rescue the</b> 6 <b>people, and tried their best. But, actually, I don't</b> 7 <b>understand why, for example, some of the firefighters,</b> 8 <b>like Peter Herrera, putting words into my mouth which</b> 9 <b>I didn't say, by saying I said no one else in the flat.</b> 10 <b>I didn't search the flat, I didn't check if Mohammad</b> 11 <b>left or not, so why should I say that? And he's my</b> 12 <b>brother. So it's very hard to hear someone blaming you</b> 13 <b>for the death of your best friends and neighbours and</b> 14 <b>your -- he's my brother, how can I say that about him?</b> 15 <b>He's just trying to blame me for not searching the</b> 16 <b>flat by himself, and I'm sure that he didn't search the</b> 17 <b>flat, and if he did, he would see everyone else. And</b> 18 <b>I'm sure he didn't go inside any bedrooms or living</b> 19 <b>room, because he would see everyone else. If my brother</b> 20 <b>was praying, the rest, they weren't, so he could see</b> 21 <b>everyone else.</b> 22 <b>And I just want to say that the death of everyone</b> 23 <b>and my brother really changed my life completely.</b> 24 MR RAWAT: Thank you once again for coming to give evidence 25 today. It has been very helpful.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 100</p>

25 (Pages 97 to 100)

<p>1 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Alhajali, I would like to add my</p> <p>3 thanks to those of Mr Rawat.</p> <p>4 You obviously had a terrible experience, and made</p> <p>5 all the worse by the death of your brother. I'm very</p> <p>6 sorry for his death and it will take you a long time,</p> <p>7 I'm sure, to come to terms with it.</p> <p>8 I'm sorry we've had to ask you to go over it all</p> <p>9 again here in public, but it's very important that we</p> <p>10 have your evidence about what was happening in the</p> <p>11 building on the night in question, and so we're very</p> <p>12 grateful to you. Thank you very much for coming to tell</p> <p>13 us what you can.</p> <p>14 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>16 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You are now free to go. If you</p> <p>18 would like to go with the usher, she'll look after you.</p> <p>19 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>20 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, our next witness is scheduled for</p> <p>21 2 o'clock.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. Well, I think we could say</p> <p>23 2.10, couldn't we?</p> <p>24 MR RAWAT: I won't object to that.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, it's just that there are a lot</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 Can you give the inquiry your full name, please.</p> <p>2 <b>A. My name is Oluwaseun Talabi.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>4 Mr Talabi, the first thing to say to you is thank</p> <p>5 you very much for coming to give evidence to us today.</p> <p>6 My questions today are going to focus on the night</p> <p>7 of the fire, and everyone here will know that that is</p> <p>8 difficult. So if at any time you need a break, please</p> <p>9 just tell me and we'll stop.</p> <p>10 What I'm going to try and do, I hope, is keep my</p> <p>11 questions short and simple, but if I do ask you</p> <p>12 a question that you don't understand, please don't</p> <p>13 hesitate to stop me and tell me and I'll put the</p> <p>14 question in a different way.</p> <p>15 <b>A. That's fine.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>17 The first thing we need to do is to put your</p> <p>18 statement to this inquiry formally into the record. So</p> <p>19 can we have, please, the first page of that statement,</p> <p>20 which is IWS00000851.</p> <p>21 Just so that we can orientate ourselves, Mr Talabi,</p> <p>22 that's the first page of the statement that you've made</p> <p>23 for the inquiry.</p> <p>24 You'll see, I hope, that it's come up on the screen</p> <p>25 that's on your desk. If you need a paper copy at any</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 of people who have to get some refreshment over the</p> <p>2 lunch hour, and if we start cutting into the lunch hour,</p> <p>3 it makes life difficult for them. So I'm sure our</p> <p>4 witness will understand, particularly if we apologise to</p> <p>5 him when we start him.</p> <p>6 MR RAWAT: That will be done.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: 2.10, please.</p> <p>8 (1.10 pm)</p> <p>9 (The short adjournment)</p> <p>10 (2.15 pm)</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Rawat.</p> <p>12 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, may I now call Oluwaseun Talabi.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>14 OLUWASEUN TALABI (sworn)</p> <p>15 Questions by MR RAWAT</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Talabi. Sit</p> <p>17 down, make yourself comfortable.</p> <p>18 Before we start, can I say that I know you were</p> <p>19 asked to be here to start at 2 o'clock, and I'm sure you</p> <p>20 were here on time. I'm sorry we've kept you waiting,</p> <p>21 but we overran a bit this morning and we are running</p> <p>22 a little bit behind.</p> <p>23 THE WITNESS: That's all right, sir.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Rawat.</p> <p>25 MR RAWAT: Thank you, Mr Chairman.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 time, there will be one in the bundle that's on the</p> <p>2 table in front of you.</p> <p>3 I just want to ask you, I think there may be</p> <p>4 a couple of corrections or clarifications we need to</p> <p>5 make to the statement.</p> <p>6 Could we go, please, to paragraph 43, which is on</p> <p>7 page 11.</p> <p>8 It begins:</p> <p>9 "At approximately, the fire fighters came to the</p> <p>10 door again."</p> <p>11 There seems to be something missing between</p> <p>12 "approximately" and "the fire fighters". Can you help</p> <p>13 us with that at all?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I don't know if they was talking about the time, I don't</b></p> <p>15 <b>know.</b></p> <p>16 Q. So can we clarify that by saying you don't know what</p> <p>17 time you were referring to there?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Can we then go to paragraph 54, which is on page 13.</p> <p>20 Can you see there that the typed version of the</p> <p>21 statement has missed some words so the first sentence</p> <p>22 begins:</p> <p>23 "The fire fighters then came for the."</p> <p>24 Do you know what should follow after that?</p> <p>25 <b>A. "The last time."</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 Q. So, just for the record, the first sentence of 2 paragraph 54 should read: 3 "The fire fighters then came for the [last time]." 4 <b>A. Yes.</b> 5 Q. Thank you. 6 Could we go to page 19, then, please. 7 The statement, we can see at the bottom, is dated 8 20 May 2018, and we can see that it's signed. 9 Is that your signature? 10 <b>A. Yes, it is.</b> 11 Q. Have you had an opportunity to go through the statement 12 recently? 13 <b>A. Yes. I have.</b> 14 Q. Thank you. 15 Subject to the clarification and the correction that 16 you've made, are the contents of the statement true? 17 <b>A. Yes, to the best of my knowledge.</b> 18 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, for the record, there are no 19 exhibits to accompany the statement. 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, thank you. 21 MR RAWAT: Can I start, please, Mr Talabi, with just 22 a little bit of background, if I may, and I'll take you 23 back to page 2 of your statement. Could we just expand 24 paragraph 4 for us, please. 25 You give a little bit of background there and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b> 2 Q. How well did you know your neighbours? 3 <b>A. I knew Denis Murphy as a guy that -- he was a polite 4 guy, just lovely, that is one of the first people I met 5 on that floor, a very polite guy. Every time I would 6 see him, he would always be like, "How you doing, bruv?" 7 That's the kind of relationship we had. We're not 8 friends as such, but we had a mutual respect for each 9 other, kind of, yeah.</b> 10 Q. You also mention -- it's at the bottom -- Zainab Deen 11 and her son. 12 How well did you know them? 13 <b>A. I knew Zainab -- I knew Zainab not too well. I knew 14 Zainab -- put it this way, she was a lady that lived by 15 herself with her child. She had a little child. Her 16 son came to my flat once or twice, because there's times 17 where we've left the door open, and he came in, and 18 I think Zainab actually liked him coming to our flat. 19 But I wouldn't say, like, Zainab and us were very close, 20 but there were occasions where we would have a chat and, 21 yeah, her son has been in my house, like, twice.</b> 22 Q. So would it be a fair way of describing relations on the 23 14th floor to say that you got on with your neighbours? 24 <b>A. Yes.</b> 25 Q. You knew some of them to say hello to --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 I won't read it out, but is it right that in June 2017, 2 you were working as a logistics manager in the 3 construction industry? 4 <b>A. No, I wasn't in logistics at that time, I was working as 5 a supervisor at a site in Stratford.</b> 6 Q. So a supervisor on a site in Stratford? 7 <b>A. Yes.</b> 8 Q. You had moved in with your partner, Rosemary, who we 9 heard from yesterday, hadn't you? 10 <b>A. Yes.</b> 11 Q. And your daughter. And you moved in, you tell us, in 12 around 2015. 13 <b>A. Yes, I've been staying with her, like, a few times, but 14 I moved in permanently at that time, yes.</b> 15 Q. That was to flat 113 -- 16 <b>A. Yeah, that's correct.</b> 17 Q. -- on the 14th floor of Grenfell Tower, wasn't it? 18 <b>A. That's correct.</b> 19 Q. Could we have the whole page, please. 20 As I mentioned, we heard from Rosemary yesterday, 21 and I mean no disrespect to you if I say that I'll try 22 to take things shortly. 23 My first question is: you set out in your statement 24 here, and it begins at paragraph 5 -- you discuss the 25 neighbours who lived on the 14th floor.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b> 2 Q. -- and to have a chat with? 3 <b>A. Yes.</b> 4 Q. We know the Alhajali brothers lived in flat 112. Had 5 you come across them? 6 <b>A. Yes. Everyone just used to mind your business, 7 everyone's fine and we just used to go for work, come 8 back, and obviously if you meet your neighbours in the 9 lift or in the corridor, you say hello to them and, 10 yeah, that was our relationship. It wasn't, like, close 11 or nothing, yeah.</b> 12 Q. As a family, did you feel settled in flat 113? 13 <b>A. Settled but not safe.</b> 14 Q. To pick up the last part of your answer, I want to ask 15 you just a little bit about what you knew about fire 16 safety in Grenfell Tower before the fire. All right? 17 <b>A. Yes.</b> 18 MR RAWAT: What I want to do -- and it's, Mr Chairman, 19 an image we've seen a number of times now. 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 21 MR RAWAT: I just want to show you a fire notice. So we're 22 just going to see the notice itself. 23 Are you happy that we look at that, Mr Talabi? 24 <b>A. Yes.</b> 25 Q. Could we have, please, BLA00002416, please.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

27 (Pages 105 to 108)

<p>1 If I just explain to you, Mr Talabi, what this image 2 shows. It's a notice that was sited between the lifts 3 on the 3rd floor. So not your floor, but at the lifts. 4 But obviously you would have come back and forth to 5 your home every day, wouldn't you? 6 <b>A. Yes.</b> 7 Q. And unless they weren't working, did you usually try to 8 use the lifts to get up to your flat? 9 <b>A. Sorry, say that again.</b> 10 Q. If the lifts were working, was that the usual way you 11 would get to your -- 12 <b>A. If the lifts were working, we used the lifts. If the</b> 13 <b>lift wasn't working, which happened quite a few times,</b> 14 <b>where both lifts weren't working, we have to take the</b> 15 <b>stairs, yeah.</b> 16 Q. Do you remember seeing a notice like that between the 17 lifts on the ground floor? 18 <b>A. Yes, probably on the ground floor, but nowhere else.</b> 19 Q. So you say nowhere else; does that mean you can't 20 remember seeing a notice like that on your floor? 21 <b>A. Definitely not.</b> 22 Q. If you look at the top line, it says: 23 "There is a 'stay put' policy for residents unless 24 the fire is in or affecting your flat." 25 Did the phrase "stay put" mean anything to you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 MR RAWAT: Just for 5 minutes. 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. 3 Mr Talabi, you're going to find we have breaks from 4 time to time for all sorts of different reasons. 5 Counsel would like a 5-minute break now, so I think 6 we'll do as he asks and we'll have a break until 2.35. 7 I have to ask you not to talk to anyone about your 8 evidence while you're out of the room. All right? 9 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So if you would like to go with the 11 usher, she'll look after you. 12 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir. 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? 14 2.35, then, please. 15 (2.27 pm) 16 (A short break) 17 (2.35 pm) 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Talabi? Are you ready 19 to carry on? 20 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank very much. 22 Yes, Mr Rawat. 23 MR RAWAT: Thank you, sir. 24 Mr Talabi, can I just ask you a question about 25 a different topic, if I may.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 before June 2017? 2 <b>A. No. I don't think it makes any sense for you to stay in</b> 3 <b>a burning building. If there's a way for you to get</b> 4 <b>out, you get out. You don't stay in a building because</b> 5 <b>someone has told you to stay or some sign has told you</b> 6 <b>to stay. You get out of the burning building if you</b> 7 <b>could get out of the burning building, and that's what</b> 8 <b>I would do if I could get out of a burning building.</b> 9 Q. You say your view was if there was a fire, it was to get 10 out? 11 <b>A. Yes.</b> 12 Q. Did you have fire drills at work, for example? 13 <b>A. I don't think so.</b> 14 Q. So what was it that influenced your view that if there 15 was a fire, the best thing to do was to get out? 16 <b>A. If you live in a tower block, there's no way you can</b> 17 <b>live in a tower block, especially when it's got one</b> 18 <b>stairway, and you've got gas pipes running through the</b> 19 <b>emergency exit, there's no way you're not going to think</b> 20 <b>about a fire happening and you trying to get out at some</b> 21 <b>point. Only if you -- I don't know, but, yeah, that</b> 22 <b>used to come to my mind sometimes.</b> 23 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, I wonder if we could just take 24 a break at this moment, please. 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes, that's fine.</b> 2 Q. It's how the front door to your flat worked. 3 Can we just look at your statement, just what you 4 remembered about the front door. If we go to 5 IWS00000851, page 5, please, and just look at 6 paragraph 18. 7 I'll just read out the first part of it: 8 "18. The front door to our flat was replaced. It 9 was quite tight to the frame, and the door closed 10 properly. I can't remember whether we had an automatic 11 door closer, or whether there was any form of draught 12 seal or draught excluder. I do know that when the fire 13 happened, there wasn't any smoke in our flat until after 14 we had opened the door. Our door had a letterbox on it 15 that sprang shut, almost violently. I never had any 16 problem with the door itself." 17 Can you just help us with this: was your door the 18 type that you couldn't lock yourself out of? 19 <b>A. Yes, it was.</b> 20 Q. So can you just explain to me just how it worked, then? 21 <b>A. You can only lock yourself -- you can only lock it from</b> 22 <b>the outside or inside. If you don't lock it from the</b> 23 <b>inside or lock it from the outside, then you can just</b> 24 <b>open it either from outside or inside.</b> 25 Q. So you would actually have to turn the lock to --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p>

1 **A. Yes.**  
 2 Q. -- shut the door fully?  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. So if the door was shut but hadn't been locked --  
 5 **A. Yes.**  
 6 Q. -- could someone come into the flat?  
 7 **A. Yes, only if you open it.**  
 8 Q. What kind of handle was there on the door?  
 9 **A. I think it was a gold handle. It wasn't like a long**  
 10 **one, it was just like a circle kind of thing and you can**  
 11 **just --**  
 12 Q. Like a door knob rather than a handle?  
 13 **A. It wasn't like a circle, but kind of -- I don't know how**  
 14 **to describe it, but, yeah.**  
 15 Q. If I am standing outside that door and I just turn that  
 16 handle and push and the lock isn't engaged --  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. -- would that allow me to come into your flat?  
 19 **A. Yes, it would.**  
 20 Q. Could I please have page 9 of the statement, please, and  
 21 can we look at paragraphs 35 and 36.  
 22 Mr Talabi, we're going to take this in stages, if  
 23 I may, but what I want to do is just start asking you  
 24 a few questions about the night of the fire.  
 25 **A. That's fine.**

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1 Q. It may help if I tell you that the approach I'm going to  
 2 adopt is not to ask you about every detail that you've  
 3 put in your statement, but just to pick out some issues  
 4 on which I'd ask for some further information, if that's  
 5 possible.  
 6 **A. That's fine.**  
 7 Q. Just to give us some context, what you say in the first  
 8 paragraph is that you got home that night at about 6.00  
 9 or 7.00 pm.  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. And you describe it as a very ordinary and normal  
 12 evening.  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. You say, "We were all in bed before midnight."  
 15 **A. Yes.**  
 16 Q. You finish that paragraph by saying:  
 17 "It was a summer's evening, so we had our bedroom  
 18 windows open and other windows open to let some air into  
 19 the flat ..."  
 20 **A. Yes.**  
 21 Q. We know -- we've seen the layout of your flat -- that  
 22 you had two bedrooms, didn't you?  
 23 **A. Yes.**  
 24 Q. Aside from those bedroom windows, can you remember which  
 25 windows you left open that night?

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1 **A. Definitely the kitchen window, because obviously it's**  
 2 **the summer, and if you're going to cook, it's the**  
 3 **kitchen, you're going to need the windows open**  
 4 **constantly. So, yeah. And maybe one or two of the**  
 5 **windows in the front room, but I'm not sure.**  
 6 Q. Thank you.  
 7 If we pick it up at paragraph 36, what you say there  
 8 is that it was approximately 01.30 am when you first  
 9 knew that something had gone awry, and what you heard at  
 10 that time was noise and shouting.  
 11 What do you base the timing of 01.30 am on?  
 12 **A. The reason was I had work the next day, so obviously, if**  
 13 **I've been woken up by a noise outside, I wanted to check**  
 14 **to see how much time I've got left to sleep before**  
 15 **I wake up again for work the next day. But, yeah, it**  
 16 **didn't go to plan that way.**  
 17 Q. Did you check that by looking at your phone or something  
 18 like that?  
 19 **A. I did, just before I tried to go back to sleep.**  
 20 Q. If we go over to the next page, please, and just expand  
 21 from the top down to the end of paragraph 38.  
 22 I'm just going to draw your attention to part of it:  
 23 "There were no signs of smoke or fire inside our  
 24 flat. From the hubbub of voices on what I think was the  
 25 walkway, I could just about make out someone shouting

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1 'Fire! Fire!' It was seconds between waking up and  
 2 realising that there was a fire downstairs.  
 3 "38. The first place I saw any evidence of the fire  
 4 was on the outside of our flat."  
 5 You describe going into the kitchen and looking out  
 6 of the window.  
 7 I just want to ask for a little bit more help on  
 8 this, please, and hopefully we can try and help you by  
 9 showing you a plan.  
 10 Could we have MET00012593, please, and page 12 of  
 11 that document.  
 12 If we could expand flat 3 at the bottom.  
 13 You may already be aware of this, Mr Talabi, but  
 14 this is a layout of the 4th floor.  
 15 **A. Yes.**  
 16 Q. But it matches what the layout would be as you would  
 17 have moved up the tower. So on your floor, that's the  
 18 approximate layout of your flat.  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. Your partner, Rosemary Oyewole, explained that one thing  
 21 we should note is that between the kitchen and the  
 22 lounge, there would have been a sliding door, wouldn't  
 23 there?  
 24 **A. Yes, there was.**  
 25 Q. What we can see, if you look on the left-hand side of

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<p>1 the image, can you see blue lines?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Those, as I understand it, designate the windows. So we</p> <p>4 have one window at the kitchen.</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Was that the window that you first went to?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes, it was.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Can you just tell us what you could see when you went to</p> <p>9 that window?</p> <p>10 <b>A. So after I heard all the noises coming out from outside,</b></p> <p>11 <b>I decided to investigate if I could see anything, any</b></p> <p>12 <b>fire around the building, so I went straight in the</b></p> <p>13 <b>kitchen.</b></p> <p>14 <b>When I went to the kitchen, the concrete column,</b></p> <p>15 <b>this bit here (Indicates), separating us from -- I could</b></p> <p>16 <b>see smoke shooting up from the concrete column, going</b></p> <p>17 <b>up. Obviously I couldn't see -- the concrete column was</b></p> <p>18 <b>kind of blocking, so I couldn't see to my right itself,</b></p> <p>19 <b>but I could see fire coming up -- not fire, but smoke,</b></p> <p>20 <b>thick smoke, coming from there.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Can I break that down and take it in stages.</p> <p>22 So you've told us your kitchen window was open.</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. So you lent out of the window; is that right?</p> <p>25 <b>A. No, I didn't put my head out or nothing, I didn't have</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 <b>I wasn't sure about my daughter's room, but, yeah -- and</b></p> <p>2 <b>the front room light wasn't on because we wouldn't leave</b></p> <p>3 <b>the light on if we're going to bed, so I'm thinking the</b></p> <p>4 <b>light was switched off in the front room.</b></p> <p>5 Q. What you set out in the paragraph is what you</p> <p>6 encountered when you opened the front door, and you say:</p> <p>7 "It was like being punched in the face with thick,</p> <p>8 black smoke. It was akin to opening a hot oven, this</p> <p>9 wall of heat and smoke hit you."</p> <p>10 Can you tell us anything about what the smoke smelt</p> <p>11 like?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I can't describe it, because it's not something I've</b></p> <p>13 <b>smelt before, and I don't think anyone else -- anyone</b></p> <p>14 <b>here would've smelt it before. So it's not something</b></p> <p>15 <b>I can describe to you. You're going to have to feel it</b></p> <p>16 <b>for yourself to understand it.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Did it have any effect on you?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Not at that point.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Do you remember where Rosemary was at this time?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Mm ... I think, again, because I already thought it</b></p> <p>21 <b>was -- mm ... I can't -- I don't know.</b></p> <p>22 <b>Well, is it before I opened the door? No, Rosemary</b></p> <p>23 <b>and I opened the door together, so the statement is</b></p> <p>24 <b>not -- but, yeah, all three of us, because I woke up,</b></p> <p>25 <b>told her to get ready, she got [our daughter] to get</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 <b>to put my head out. Basically, I looked out -- it</b></p> <p>2 <b>wasn't close to the -- but you can see the smoke coming</b></p> <p>3 <b>up, so probably from someone else's flat that was</b></p> <p>4 <b>burning or something else, but it wasn't as close. But</b></p> <p>5 <b>I could see it, so I knew there was fire on that side.</b></p> <p>6 Q. You associated the smoke with the column?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. You say that it wasn't close, but was the smoke below</p> <p>9 you?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Mm ... I could see smoke. I don't know if it was below,</b></p> <p>11 <b>coming from above, but I could see smoke. And</b></p> <p>12 <b>I remember not saying nothing to Rosemary, so she</b></p> <p>13 <b>doesn't feel -- she doesn't start panicking.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Was any of that smoke coming into your kitchen?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Not at that point.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Can we look, please, at paragraph 39, back in your</p> <p>17 statement, page 10, please.</p> <p>18 What you say there is that the next thing you did</p> <p>19 was to go to the front door of your flat.</p> <p>20 Before you got to the front door, as you were</p> <p>21 approaching it, were you aware of any smoke coming into</p> <p>22 the flat through that closed front door?</p> <p>23 <b>A. No, there wasn't any smoke at that point.</b></p> <p>24 Q. What lights did you have on in your flat at that time?</p> <p>25 <b>A. The corridor light for sure. Our bedroom light.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 <b>dressed, and all three of us tried to go out together,</b></p> <p>2 <b>and we were hit with the smoke, so we had to come back</b></p> <p>3 <b>in.</b></p> <p>4 Q. So if we take paragraph 39, your recollection is at that</p> <p>5 time that you opened the door here, you'd already made</p> <p>6 a decision to leave the flat?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes, that was the first thing we did when I woke up,</b></p> <p>8 <b>when I woke Rosemary up, because our plan was to leave</b></p> <p>9 <b>the building.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Is it your memory that Rosemary would've been with you</p> <p>11 by the front door?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. And your daughter was with you?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. You say:</p> <p>16 "I closed the door as soon as we had opened it."</p> <p>17 Did you step out into the communal hallway at all?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I'm not sure if I did. Or maybe I put my head out or we</b></p> <p>19 <b>tried to escape and we saw it was just too dark and the</b></p> <p>20 <b>smoke was just different. It wasn't like smoke from,</b></p> <p>21 <b>like, cooking, it was just -- like, there was something</b></p> <p>22 <b>serious happening that you can't take that risk of</b></p> <p>23 <b>trying to step in, so I shut the door, yeah.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Can you remember how many times you opened the door?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Me, personally, I opened the door probably once, but the</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>

1 **door was opened quite a few times that night.**  
 2 Q. We'll come back to that, if I may, in due course.  
 3 Again, my questions are just about getting a bit  
 4 more detail from you, but when you opened the door on  
 5 this occasion that we see, in this paragraph, can you  
 6 describe what your visibility was like in the communal  
 7 hallway?  
 8 **A. To be fair, I don't know, I couldn't see nothing.**  
 9 **I don't even know if the light was switched on, I don't**  
 10 **know if the smoke was just all thick and we couldn't see**  
 11 **the light, but it was pitch black when we opened the**  
 12 **door.**  
 13 Q. Well, let's just take you now to another couple of  
 14 paragraphs in your statement, which are on the same  
 15 page. Can we look at paragraphs 41 and 42, please.  
 16 What you tell us in paragraph 41 is that Rosemary  
 17 began to put blankets around the door to prevent the  
 18 smoke coming in, and you were throwing water on the  
 19 blankets.  
 20 Did those efforts work? Did they stop the smoke  
 21 coming into your flat?  
 22 **A. Yes, it did. Yeah, it did. A bit, yeah, it worked,**  
 23 **yeah, because she kept on doing it for a long time,**  
 24 **actually, so, yeah, yeah. It helped a bit, yeah.**  
 25 Q. What you say, if we pick it up now at paragraph 42:

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1 "42. 10 — 15 minutes after we had woken up and  
 2 discovered that there was a fire in Grenfell Tower, 2  
 3 firefighters knocked on the door."  
 4 You say you opened the door and let in two  
 5 firefighters who had banged on the door, and by doing  
 6 that, more smoke came into the flat.  
 7 Can you describe the firefighters at all?  
 8 **A. No, I don't know what they looked like. I can't**  
 9 **describe them.**  
 10 Q. Were they big or small?  
 11 **A. I wasn't thinking, I was just thinking about getting out**  
 12 **of the fire.**  
 13 Q. Do you remember if they were wearing masks?  
 14 **A. I think they were.**  
 15 Q. Do you remember them ever taking the masks off?  
 16 **A. I can't remember, I'm sorry.**  
 17 Q. I'll take you back to the plan if you want to see it,  
 18 and tell me if you do, but do you remember how far these  
 19 firefighters came into your flat?  
 20 **A. I think they actually came into the room because**  
 21 **I remember Rosemary telling one of them not to stain our**  
 22 **wall, and I said to her, "That's the least of our**  
 23 **problems right now", because I don't think she knew what**  
 24 **she was in.**  
 25 Q. When you say they came into the room, which room do you

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1 have in mind?  
 2 **A. Our bedroom.**  
 3 Q. Let's go to the plan, please.  
 4 MET00012593, please, and page 12.  
 5 Again, could we expand flat 3 down in the south-west  
 6 corner.  
 7 You've got two bedrooms, and is it right that the  
 8 bedroom that is closest to the lounge was your  
 9 daughter's bedroom?  
 10 **A. That's correct.**  
 11 Q. And the bedroom that faces the front door --  
 12 **A. Yes.**  
 13 Q. -- was yours and Rosemary's bedroom?  
 14 **A. That's correct.**  
 15 Q. Is it your recollection that these firefighters actually  
 16 came into the bedroom?  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. When they were in your flat, did they ask how many  
 19 people were in the flat?  
 20 **A. I'm not sure, but maybe they did, but I'm not sure.**  
 21 Q. Before we leave this plan, we know that -- and correct  
 22 me if I'm wrong -- there was a double bed in the bedroom  
 23 that was used by yourself and Rosemary, is that right?  
 24 **A. No, it was a king-sized bed.**  
 25 Q. What furniture did you have in your daughter's bedroom?

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1 **A. A double bed -- a bunk bed.**  
 2 Q. A bunk bed?  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. Can we go back to your statement again, please, page 11.  
 5 Could we expand, please, paragraphs 43 and 44.  
 6 So when the firefighters first came into your flat,  
 7 can you remember whether it was yourself or Rosemary  
 8 that let them in?  
 9 **A. I can't remember, sir.**  
 10 Q. They then left, and presumably the door was shut after  
 11 them; is that right?  
 12 **A. Yes, it was.**  
 13 Q. So if we pick it up at paragraph 43, you say that they  
 14 came to the door again, you're not sure if they were the  
 15 same two that had come previously and they knocked on  
 16 the door and we let them in.  
 17 Can you help us with who let these two firefighters  
 18 in this time?  
 19 **A. Like I said, I can't remember who let who in. Could've**  
 20 **been me or Rosemary, one of us let them in.**  
 21 Q. Were you still at that time around the front door  
 22 throwing water onto the blankets and things like that?  
 23 **A. I think so.**  
 24 Q. So this is the second visit by firefighters to your  
 25 flat, isn't it?

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<p>1 <b>A. Not sure.</b></p> <p>2 Q. What you've told us is that you've had one visit where</p> <p>3 two firefighters come and they come into your bedroom.</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. This is now firefighters coming back to the door again.</p> <p>6 Can you help us at all with how much time passed</p> <p>7 between those two visits?</p> <p>8 <b>A. No, I don't want to say something I'm not sure about.</b></p> <p>9 Q. That's fair enough.</p> <p>10 If we look at what the firefighters told you, you</p> <p>11 write that:</p> <p>12 "... the two firefighters that came in told us that</p> <p>13 our flat was either the least damaged, or the least</p> <p>14 at-risk of damage in the fire on the 14th floor."</p> <p>15 They asked you if they could bring people into your</p> <p>16 flat; do you see that?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Did they tell you anything of what was going on in the</p> <p>19 other flats on your floor?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No, they didn't. They just said to us is it all right</b></p> <p>21 <b>if they bring our neighbours, because our flat seemed to</b></p> <p>22 <b>be the safest place as at that time. So obviously that</b></p> <p>23 <b>doesn't sound very good. And, yeah, they asked us if</b></p> <p>24 <b>they could bring our neighbours and we said yes, they</b></p> <p>25 <b>could.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 <b>smoky, but, yeah, there was smoke coming in, so there</b></p> <p>2 <b>was still a bit of smoke in the house. It wasn't like</b></p> <p>3 <b>you couldn't see nothing or -- but, yeah, there was</b></p> <p>4 <b>smoke.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Whereabouts in your flat did you see that smoke?</p> <p>6 <b>A. More of the corridor, but it wasn't like thick or</b></p> <p>7 <b>nothing. Yeah.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Could we look at paragraph 45, please.</p> <p>9 I just want to pick up the last sentence of that</p> <p>10 paragraph, please, Mr Talabi. You say:</p> <p>11 "We were all sat in the bedroom; Dennis[sic], Zainab</p> <p>12 and one of the brothers were sat on the bed."</p> <p>13 Which bedroom are you referring to there?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Our bedroom.</b></p> <p>15 Q. So what's your recollection of where your neighbours</p> <p>16 went in your flat when they arrived?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Omar and his brother kind of walked around. I think</b></p> <p>18 <b>they were trying to inspect, I don't know, but they</b></p> <p>19 <b>walked around. I can't remember where Zainab was and</b></p> <p>20 <b>Jeremiah, but I can remember Denis Murphy was in the</b></p> <p>21 <b>front room.</b></p> <p>22 Q. But did there come a time when you all ended up in your</p> <p>23 bedroom?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I don't know the reasons why we all ended up in the</b></p> <p>25 <b>bedroom, but Denis Murphy was in the front room, I know</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>
<p>1 Q. If we look at paragraph 44, you say:</p> <p>2 "44. It can't be more than a couple of minutes</p> <p>3 after the firefighters came for the second time when</p> <p>4 they came again with the people from our floor into our</p> <p>5 flat."</p> <p>6 So they brought in Denis Murphy, Zainab and her son,</p> <p>7 and then the brothers Omar and Mohammad.</p> <p>8 Do you remember if they all came together in one</p> <p>9 group or did they come in batches?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I think they came together.</b></p> <p>11 Q. When they came, did firefighters come into the flat with</p> <p>12 them?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Maybe, I'm not sure.</b></p> <p>14 Q. I think in your statement what you explain is that each</p> <p>15 time the front door opened, smoke would come in from the</p> <p>16 communal area through that door, wouldn't it?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Other than those occasions --</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. -- by the time that your neighbours arrived in your</p> <p>21 flat --</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>23 Q. -- had you been successful in stopping smoke from coming</p> <p>24 through the front door?</p> <p>25 <b>A. There was smoke coming in, but it wasn't, like, very</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 <b>that for a fact, because Rosemary grabbed him to take</b></p> <p>2 <b>him to wash his face and give him water, so, yeah,</b></p> <p>3 <b>I remember that clearly.</b></p> <p>4 Q. So you remember Denis being in the front room --</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. -- and Rosemary helping him to wash his face; is that</p> <p>7 right?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. What you've said, if we look at that sentence, is:</p> <p>10 "We were all sat in the bedroom ..."</p> <p>11 And you mention Denis specifically.</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yeah, because --</b></p> <p>13 Q. Do you remember Denis being brought into the bedroom?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I don't know how he got in there -- I think -- I don't</b></p> <p>15 <b>know how he got in there, but, yeah, he didn't spend</b></p> <p>16 <b>very long in the front room because all of us were in</b></p> <p>17 <b>the bedroom after a while.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Can you tell us why you all ended up in the bedroom?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I don't know. I don't know. I don't know. I don't</b></p> <p>20 <b>know. I don't know.</b></p> <p>21 Q. You told us that earlier you'd gone to your kitchen</p> <p>22 window and looked out and seen smoke.</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. From either your lounge windows or your kitchen windows,</p> <p>25 had you gone back to look out of those windows at all?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>



<p>1 <b>A. Yes, I did go back to the kitchen, and now I could see,</b></p> <p>2 <b>like, a bit more kind of light coming, not -- I could</b></p> <p>3 <b>see a bit more, it was getting a bit bigger.</b></p> <p>4 Q. And --</p> <p>5 <b>A. And that's one of the things that prompted me to start</b></p> <p>6 <b>doing what I was doing.</b></p> <p>7 Q. That's something I am going to ask you next, if I may,</p> <p>8 but just before we leave that trip to the kitchen</p> <p>9 window, you say you could see more light; did you have</p> <p>10 a sense of how close that was to you?</p> <p>11 <b>A. No, but obviously, if I saw smoke before and now I can</b></p> <p>12 <b>see fire, that means it's getting a bit closer, so,</b></p> <p>13 <b>yeah.</b></p> <p>14 Q. When you say you could now see fire, was it flames that</p> <p>15 you could see?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Again, was it towards your right as you look out of the</p> <p>18 kitchen window?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes, the same area, yeah.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Do you remember Zainab using her phone while she was in</p> <p>21 flat 113?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Do you remember who she was calling?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Now I know, but I didn't know who she was talking to at</b></p> <p>25 <b>that point, but now I know who she was talking to.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p>2 Q. You can see the door of the bedroom that leads out into</p> <p>3 the hallway.</p> <p>4 Can you tell us where Denis was sat on the bed?</p> <p>5 <b>A. From around this line of the bed (Indicates).</b></p> <p>6 Q. He was sat on the side of the bed closest to the bedroom</p> <p>7 door?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b></p> <p>9 Q. I think we didn't hear your answer.</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b></p> <p>11 Q. What about Zainab, where was she?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Zainab was panicking throughout the whole thing, so she</b></p> <p>13 <b>wasn't sitting down, or -- my image I can see of Zainab</b></p> <p>14 <b>right now is her standing here (Indicates).</b></p> <p>15 Q. So on the wall that's closest to the next-door flat?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes, by the foot of the bed, yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. At the foot of the bed?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Yesterday Rosemary remembered Zainab's son being put on</p> <p>20 the bed. Do you remember that as well?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes, it was next to my daughter.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Do you remember where Omar and Mohammad were?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Omar and Mohammad were walking around the whole place.</b></p> <p>24 <b>I think obviously, if there is a fire, they're trying to</b></p> <p>25 <b>see how to get out and trying to see where the fire</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 131</p>
<p>1 Q. So at the time, you didn't hear who she was speaking to?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I saw Zainab that night before the fire started, and she</b></p> <p>3 <b>was with a man, and, yeah, that's the person she was</b></p> <p>4 <b>speaking to.</b></p> <p>5 Q. So she was speaking to a friend of hers?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Do you recall Denis being on the phone at all?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I saw him with a phone, but I can't remember if he was</b></p> <p>9 <b>actually using the phone. But I saw him with a phone,</b></p> <p>10 <b>but I don't remember him actually using it.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Just remind yourself of that last sentence. You say:</p> <p>12 "We were all sat in the bedroom; Dennis, Zainab and</p> <p>13 one of the brothers were sat on the bed."</p> <p>14 Let's go to MET00012593 again, please, and page 12.</p> <p>15 Again, expand flat 3.</p> <p>16 The bedroom you have in mind is the bedroom that was</p> <p>17 for you and Rosemary; is that right?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Rosemary told us yesterday that the -- if you see the</p> <p>20 wall that separates the two bedrooms, she told us that</p> <p>21 your king-sized bed came out from that wall into the</p> <p>22 middle of the room; is that your recollection?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b></p> <p>24 Q. So there would've been space on either side of the bed,</p> <p>25 wouldn't there?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 <b>might be. So they wasn't really settled in one place,</b></p> <p>2 <b>it was just towards the end when everyone congregated in</b></p> <p>3 <b>the room, then, yeah, but Omar and Mohammad was walking</b></p> <p>4 <b>about the place.</b></p> <p>5 Q. So your recollection is that towards the end they came</p> <p>6 into the bedroom?</p> <p>7 <b>A. All of us was in the bedroom.</b></p> <p>8 Q. You mention in your statement that one of the brothers</p> <p>9 was sat on the bed. Whereabouts was that? Which side?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I remember Mohammad sitting on the bed towards the</b></p> <p>11 <b>window and I remember him reading his Qur'an.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>13 Could we please go to page 12 of your statement, and</p> <p>14 let's look at paragraph 46.</p> <p>15 You say in that paragraph:</p> <p>16 "46. When the firefighters left after dropping our</p> <p>17 neighbours off to our flat, they told us that they would</p> <p>18 be back."</p> <p>19 At that time, when they told you that, did the</p> <p>20 firefighters explain why you could not leave with them?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No. No, they didn't.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Did they give you any advice about what you should do</p> <p>23 until they did come back?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No, they didn't.</b></p> <p>25 Q. If we look on the same page, please, at paragraphs 47</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 and 48.</p> <p>2 This is the part of your statement, Mr Talabi, where</p> <p>3 you explain about making the makeshift rope.</p> <p>4 I don't have to go into the detail of it because</p> <p>5 it's already there in the statement, but can I just ask</p> <p>6 you again for some additional details, if I may.</p> <p>7 What you set out in your statement is that you made</p> <p>8 a rope from bed linen and then you tied it around the</p> <p>9 metal window surround.</p> <p>10 Can you remember which window you were tying it</p> <p>11 around?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes, I can.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Which window was it?</p> <p>14 <b>A. The window in the bedroom.</b></p> <p>15 Q. That's the window in your bedroom?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. When you were doing this, can you remember who was in</p> <p>18 the room with you?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Everyone.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Did you tell everyone what you were planning to do?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Everyone could see what I was doing.</b></p> <p>22 Q. What did they say to you?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I shouldn't.</b></p> <p>24 Q. I think you've explained how you created the rope.</p> <p>25 After you'd hung it out of the window, how far did down</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 Q. Was that still smoke coming through the front door?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes, but -- yeah.</b></p> <p>3 Q. At that time, were there lights on in the bedroom?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes, there was.</b></p> <p>5 Q. What about the lighting in the hallway?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Ours?</b></p> <p>7 Q. Yes.</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes, I think.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Could I take you just now to the next page in your</p> <p>10 statement, which is page 13. Can we look, please, at</p> <p>11 paragraphs 50 to 53.</p> <p>12 Can I just go back to the rope that you put</p> <p>13 together.</p> <p>14 Where did you get the bed sheets from?</p> <p>15 <b>A. I took it from everywhere in the house. I took it from</b></p> <p>16 <b>my daughter's room, I took it from a little storage</b></p> <p>17 <b>thing where we kept our bedsheets and everything, I took</b></p> <p>18 <b>it from there, I took it from our bedroom, I just tied</b></p> <p>19 <b>everything we had in the house, even the pillowcases and</b></p> <p>20 <b>everything.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Did you have to take the sheets off your own bed as</p> <p>22 well?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I can't remember if I took that one out, but, yeah.</b></p> <p>24 Q. So do you remember your neighbours having to move off</p> <p>25 the bed whilst you were doing that?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 135</p>
<p>1 it reach?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I think maybe about the 4th floor, 3rd floor, something</b></p> <p>3 <b>like that.</b></p> <p>4 Q. You explained that you lowered yourself out of the</p> <p>5 window, but the problem was that your daughter didn't</p> <p>6 want to come with you, so she didn't want to be passed</p> <p>7 to you; is that right?</p> <p>8 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p>9 Q. When you realised that your daughter wouldn't come out</p> <p>10 with you, how did you get back into the flat?</p> <p>11 <b>A. So I was struggling to get back into the flat and Omar</b></p> <p>12 <b>and his brother pulled me back in.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Would you like to have a break?</p> <p>14 <b>A. No, just carry on, please.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>16 When you climbed back in, what did you do with your</p> <p>17 rope?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I left it, trying it -- was going to go back again.</b></p> <p>19 Q. You've told us this was your bedroom window. At the</p> <p>20 time that you were making these efforts, what could you</p> <p>21 see from the window?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I could see Fire Brigade down there, but they didn't</b></p> <p>23 <b>look like they were going to come and help us.</b></p> <p>24 Q. What were the conditions like in your flat at this time?</p> <p>25 <b>A. It was just a bit of smoke.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 <b>A. No, I started doing that before they came in the house.</b></p> <p>2 Q. If we look, please, at paragraphs 50 and 51 in</p> <p>3 particular, what you say is that you made one attempt to</p> <p>4 get out of the window, and you say:</p> <p>5 "51. About 10 or 15 minutes after the first attempt</p> <p>6 to get out of the window, I decided to make another</p> <p>7 attempt."</p> <p>8 How confident are you about the time period between</p> <p>9 your two attempts to come out of the window?</p> <p>10 <b>A. That's an estimate.</b></p> <p>11 Q. You explain that you took some Nigerian cloth that you</p> <p>12 had in the flat and you tied your daughter onto your</p> <p>13 back?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes, with the help of Rosemary, yeah.</b></p> <p>15 Q. How tightly bound to you was your daughter?</p> <p>16 <b>A. She was very tight.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Was she covered completely by the cloth?</p> <p>18 <b>A. No, her hands were hanging out, her legs were hanging</b></p> <p>19 <b>out and her head was hanging out. Yeah.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Almost like you were giving her a piggyback but with</p> <p>21 a tight cloth around her?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>23 Q. When you made this second attempt, was it from the same</p> <p>24 window?</p> <p>25 <b>A. We didn't make a second attempt because --</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 136</p>

1 Q. That's a fair response, but can I ask it in this way:  
 2 were you going to go out from the same window?  
 3 **A. Yes, because we didn't think they were coming to get us.**  
 4 Q. Just to be clear, was that the bedroom window?  
 5 **A. Yes, it was.**  
 6 Q. As you rightly pointed out, you say at paragraph 51:  
 7 "Just as I was beginning to climb out of the window,  
 8 the fire fighters knocked on the door for the third  
 9 time."  
 10 So if we take this in stages, where were you when  
 11 you heard that knock on the door?  
 12 **A. I think we had just tied my daughter to my back and**  
 13 **Rosemary had taken the decision, because obviously**  
 14 **I think she must have popped her head out as well and**  
 15 **she must have seen the fire coming from the top, because**  
 16 **she didn't want to do it in the first place, but**  
 17 **obviously she decided that that's the only option we**  
 18 **had, so she tied my daughter to my back. And I was**  
 19 **explaining the way we're going to get back, climb the**  
 20 **thing down, and -- yeah, so we were about to do it again**  
 21 **before we heard the door open.**  
 22 Q. Was the bedroom door open or closed when you heard this  
 23 knock?  
 24 **A. To my recollection, it was open.**  
 25 Q. So from the bedroom, you could see through to the front

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1 door?  
 2 **A. Yes, you can.**  
 3 Q. What were the conditions like in your hallway at that  
 4 time?  
 5 **A. Smoky, but I could still see.**  
 6 Q. So from where you were -- were you by the window, was  
 7 that where you were?  
 8 **A. I'd say maybe not very close to the window, but just**  
 9 **about probably where Zainab was standing before, so**  
 10 **about that, yeah. Where Zainab was standing, yeah,**  
 11 **somewhere like that, yeah.**  
 12 Q. So, again, what was the visibility like in the hallway?  
 13 **A. To be fair, because we had spent quite a lot of time in**  
 14 **the room, and I didn't go back through that way, so**  
 15 **I don't know what was happening in the kitchen anymore,**  
 16 **I don't know what was happening in the front room and**  
 17 **I don't know what's happening in the corridor. I was**  
 18 **just preparing to go out through the window and -- yeah.**  
 19 Q. Then you heard the knock on the door?  
 20 **A. I don't know if it was a knock, I don't know if they**  
 21 **barged in, I don't know what it was, but, yeah.**  
 22 Q. Do you remember whether the lights were on in the  
 23 hallway?  
 24 **A. Ours?**  
 25 Q. Yes.

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1 **A. We left it on but I don't know, yeah.**  
 2 Q. At this time, when you hear this knock on the door, can  
 3 you remember where everybody else was?  
 4 **A. In the bedroom.**  
 5 Q. So let's go to MET00012593 again, please, page 12.  
 6 Again, if we could expand flat 3.  
 7 Again, if I can just take it in stages, please,  
 8 Mr Talabi, the bedroom we're speaking of is the one  
 9 that's closest to the next-door flat, and that's yours  
 10 and Rosemary's, isn't it?  
 11 **A. That's correct.**  
 12 Q. So your recollection is that the bedroom door was open?  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. And everyone was in the bedroom?  
 15 **A. Yes, I would like to think everyone's -- I don't know,**  
 16 **because -- I know Zainab was in the bedroom, her son was**  
 17 **in the bedroom, Denis was in the bedroom. I don't know**  
 18 **if Omar and his brother had walked around, but I know**  
 19 **them three for sure was in the bedroom.**  
 20 Q. So at the time that the knock happens on that door --  
 21 **A. Yes.**  
 22 Q. -- what's clear in your mind is that you were in the  
 23 bedroom.  
 24 **A. Yes.**  
 25 Q. Was Rosemary with you?

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1 **A. Yes.**  
 2 Q. And your daughter was strapped to your back?  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. So whereabouts were you and Rosemary, then, in the  
 5 bedroom?  
 6 **A. Like I said earlier, by about where Zainab -- sorry ...**  
 7 **so somewhere around here (Indicates).**  
 8 Q. So towards the foot of the bed?  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. Where was Denis?  
 11 **A. Same position he was.**  
 12 Q. Was he still sat on the bed?  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. And on the side of the bed closest to the door?  
 15 **A. Yes.**  
 16 Q. Do you think he was sat closest to the top of the bed or  
 17 to the middle of it or to the bottom?  
 18 **A. If you opened the door, you would see Denis.**  
 19 Q. What about Zainab?  
 20 **A. I don't know, but you would see Denis and you would see**  
 21 **Jeremiah.**  
 22 Q. Because he was on the bed?  
 23 **A. Yes.**  
 24 Q. Can we go, please, to your statement, page 13, again.  
 25 Pick up, please, paragraph 54, if we can have that.

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1 This is the paragraph that you corrected for us  
 2 Mr Talabi, so the first sentence should read:  
 3 "54. The fire fighters then came for the [last  
 4 time]."  
 5 Can you remember how many firefighters came?  
 6 **A. I know it was more than one, but the person that said,**  
 7 **"Go", or whatever words he said, was one person.**  
 8 **I think the other firefighter was standing outside of**  
 9 **the door.**  
 10 Q. So you recall one person saying, "Go"?  
 11 **A. Yes.**  
 12 Q. Is that right?  
 13 **A. That's correct.**  
 14 Q. Where was that person in relation to the front door?  
 15 **A. He's probably got one foot inside and one foot outside,**  
 16 **I'd say, something like that.**  
 17 Q. Do you have a clear recollection, then, of this  
 18 firefighter at your front door?  
 19 **A. Sorry?**  
 20 Q. Do you have a clear memory of a firefighter at your  
 21 front door?  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. Do you remember if anyone opened the door to the  
 24 firefighter?  
 25 **A. No, I don't.**

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1 Q. Did you open the door at all?  
 2 **A. No, I didn't.**  
 3 Q. What about Rosemary?  
 4 **A. No. I don't think so.**  
 5 Q. What could you see of the communal hall area behind this  
 6 firefighter?  
 7 **A. Nothing.**  
 8 Q. Were you aware of smoke coming in?  
 9 **A. Obviously if you open the door and the place is smoky,**  
 10 **then smoke's going to come through.**  
 11 Q. What you say is that what you heard was "Go". Did you  
 12 say anything to the firefighter?  
 13 **A. No.**  
 14 Q. Did you hear anyone else speak to the firefighters?  
 15 **A. No.**  
 16 Q. If we look at that last couple of sentences in that  
 17 paragraph:  
 18 "It definitely seemed like an option, but to  
 19 Rosemary and me, it was a matter of choices: go through  
 20 the window; make a run for it down the stairs; or die in  
 21 the flat. So I grabbed Rosemary by the hand, and with  
 22 [our daughter] on my back, we ran."  
 23 I'll take a step back.  
 24 When the firefighter came in through the front door,  
 25 did the visibility in your hallway change?

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1 **A. It was quick, so I don't know if it did.**  
 2 **The last time, yes?**  
 3 Q. Yes.  
 4 **A. No, I don't know because it was quick.**  
 5 Q. Do you have a recollection of the front door being open?  
 6 **A. Yes.**  
 7 Q. Do you have a recollection of smoke coming in through  
 8 the open front door?  
 9 **A. I don't know.**  
 10 Q. When you left the flat, was your daughter still strapped  
 11 to your back?  
 12 **A. Yes, she was.**  
 13 Q. You say that you and Rosemary held each other's hands  
 14 and you ran.  
 15 Were any of your neighbours ahead of you?  
 16 **A. I don't know.**  
 17 Q. Doing the best you can, just before you left the flat,  
 18 where was everybody else?  
 19 **A. Like I said, in the bedroom. I don't know if Omar and**  
 20 **his brother had moved, but I know Jeremiah was on the**  
 21 **bed. Denis was just quiet for the whole night, he**  
 22 **didn't really go anywhere, so I know Denis was in the**  
 23 **room and Rosemary was in the room, but I don't know, I'm**  
 24 **not sure about Omar and his brother because they were**  
 25 **very active.**

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1 Q. Can we go to page 14, please, and look at paragraph 57.  
 2 This is the part of your statement where you  
 3 describe what you encountered when you left the flat,  
 4 and you describe:  
 5 "... the thick smoke hit me. I couldn't see  
 6 anything at all, not even my feet or a hand in front of  
 7 my face."  
 8 Were you aware of firefighters in the communal area?  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. What was it that told you they were there?  
 11 **A. Like I said earlier, one of them had his leg in and one**  
 12 **leg out, and he had one person behind him. So I'm not**  
 13 **sure how many there was, but I know that person had**  
 14 **someone with them.**  
 15 Q. Do you have a recollection of being helped out of the  
 16 flat or pushed along?  
 17 **A. Nobody touched us, no one helped us out.**  
 18 Q. Your recollection is that you had to push the stairwell  
 19 door open; is that right?  
 20 **A. I think Rosemary did.**  
 21 Q. When you got into the stairwell, what were the  
 22 conditions like there?  
 23 **A. It felt like I was being strangled.**  
 24 **It was really hard. It felt like I was being**  
 25 **strangled. My daughter was behind me and she was making**

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<p>1 <b>all sort of noises, and it was just painful to hear.</b></p> <p>2 <b>I felt like I was putting her -- I don't know, you feel</b></p> <p>3 <b>like you're putting your daughter through -- like,</b></p> <p>4 <b>obviously it's not your fault, you're trying to save</b></p> <p>5 <b>her, but that's the worst thing you can put your</b></p> <p>6 <b>daughter through. But, yeah. So -- yeah.</b></p> <p>7 Q. You've set out in your statement how you came down the</p> <p>8 stairwell and then came out through the main entrance.</p> <p>9 You've also described the smoke that was coming into</p> <p>10 your flat, what you encountered on the communal hallway</p> <p>11 and then in the stairs.</p> <p>12 When you came out, outside of the tower, what</p> <p>13 physical effect did that smoke have on you?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I was disorientated. I was coughing thick black stuff.</b></p> <p>15 <b>My nose was running. My daughter the same thing. Do</b></p> <p>16 <b>was Rosemary. Like, it was -- we were in a bad state.</b></p> <p>17 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, if I could just have a moment,</p> <p>18 please.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, of course.</p> <p>20 (Pause)</p> <p>21 MR RAWAT: Before you left the flat, did you hear any of</p> <p>22 your neighbours say anything to the firefighter?</p> <p>23 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>24 Q. More specifically, did you hear Omar say anything to the</p> <p>25 firefighter?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 (3.30 pm)</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, now, Mr Rawat, I take it you</p> <p>3 have some more questions?</p> <p>4 MR RAWAT: It seems I do have some more work to do,</p> <p>5 Mr Chairman.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>7 Well, Mr Talabi, I think only a few more questions.</p> <p>8 I'm hoping so, anyway. Let's see how we go.</p> <p>9 MR RAWAT: Yes.</p> <p>10 Mr Talabi, there are a number of questions I have</p> <p>11 been asked to put to you, and it may mean that we jump</p> <p>12 around a little bit. So just so that you can orientate</p> <p>13 yourself, let me take you back to page 13 of your</p> <p>14 statement -- so IWS00000851, page 13, please -- and</p> <p>15 let's look again at paragraph 54.</p> <p>16 So this is the paragraph where you deal with the</p> <p>17 arrival of the firefighters in your home for the last</p> <p>18 time. Okay?</p> <p>19 I think you told us -- tell me if I have this</p> <p>20 wrong -- that you were in the bedroom at that time.</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. And your recollection is of a firefighter at the front</p> <p>23 door --</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. -- with one foot in the flat, and one foot out.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 147</p>
<p>1 <b>A. Omar didn't say nothing to nobody.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Apart from the word "Go", did you hear any firefighter</p> <p>3 say anything to someone in the flat?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>5 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, those are my questions.</p> <p>6 May I ask for the usual 5-minute break just to check</p> <p>7 if there are any other supplemental questions I ought to</p> <p>8 have asked?</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, of course.</p> <p>10 Well, Mr Talabi, at this point, counsel thinks he</p> <p>11 has asked all his questions, but sometimes it turns out</p> <p>12 that there are further questions that he should have put</p> <p>13 to you, so we're going to have a 5-minute break now so</p> <p>14 he can take stock and we'll come back at 3.30 to see if</p> <p>15 there are any more questions.</p> <p>16 I'll have to ask you not to talk about your evidence</p> <p>17 while you're out of the room, if you don't mind.</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right?</p> <p>20 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you go with the usher, she'll</p> <p>22 look after you.</p> <p>23 All right, 3.30, then, please.</p> <p>24 (3.22 pm)</p> <p>25 (A short break)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 146</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes. I don't think he was in the flat. He wasn't in</b></p> <p>2 <b>the flat, he was in between the door and -- yeah.</b></p> <p>3 Q. So would a fair way of describing it be to say that</p> <p>4 there was a firefighter on the edge of your front door?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Whilst you were still in the flat and before you left</p> <p>7 it, was there any point, so far as you can remember,</p> <p>8 where a firefighter went beyond that front door and</p> <p>9 further into your flat?</p> <p>10 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Just again so that we can be clear, did you ever see</p> <p>12 a firefighter walk past your bedroom door further into</p> <p>13 the flat, at that time?</p> <p>14 <b>A. No. The firefighter basically stood there and said</b></p> <p>15 <b>"Go", meaning take your chance and go. I didn't see him</b></p> <p>16 <b>go past, but he was still standing there when we left.</b></p> <p>17 Q. So he was in the same position?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. How sure are you in your mind that before you left that</p> <p>20 flat, no firefighter had gone beyond the front door?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Positive.</b></p> <p>22 Q. What you say is this recollection of the firefighter</p> <p>23 saying "Go".</p> <p>24 When you were told to leave, do you remember what</p> <p>25 the noise level was like in the flat?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 148</p>

<p>1 <b>A. In our flat?</b></p> <p>2 Q. Yes.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Obviously we're shouting and screaming for help before</b></p> <p>4 <b>the Fire Brigade came, but apart from that, we wasn't</b></p> <p>5 <b>really shouting because there was no point in making --</b></p> <p>6 <b>everyone was just scared. You can just feel everyone</b></p> <p>7 <b>being scared, but people were not shouting.</b></p> <p>8 Q. At the time the firefighters arrived and you heard the</p> <p>9 instruction, "Go" --</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. -- what kind of noise was there in the flat?</p> <p>12 <b>A. What do you mean?</b></p> <p>13 Q. Well, do you remember anybody else talking or shouting</p> <p>14 at the time when the firefighters arrived?</p> <p>15 <b>A. People were not shouting. Obviously the firefighter</b></p> <p>16 <b>came and we thought they were coming to rescue us, so</b></p> <p>17 <b>I don't think anyone would be shouting at that point if</b></p> <p>18 <b>you've seen anyone that's coming to rescue you.</b></p> <p>19 Q. The last time you were in your lounge, and I recognise</p> <p>20 that we're talking about now -- you've told us you were</p> <p>21 in the bedroom, but going back to the last time you were</p> <p>22 in the lounge, were the lights in the lounge still</p> <p>23 working?</p> <p>24 <b>A. All the lights in my house was working.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Do you have a clear memory of the lights in the lounge</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 time, to MET00012593, page 12 again. And, again, if we</p> <p>2 could expand flat 3.</p> <p>3 If we take each room in turn, if we may, but if you</p> <p>4 were in the bedroom that was yours and Rosemary's, and</p> <p>5 you were looking out of that window, would you be able,</p> <p>6 from that bedroom, to see the walkway that's attached to</p> <p>7 the tower?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes, you will.</b></p> <p>9 Q. What about from your daughter's bedroom?</p> <p>10 <b>A. If you stretch -- I haven't tried it before because she</b></p> <p>11 <b>had a bunk bed, but we just used to open it. I never</b></p> <p>12 <b>tried to put my head out to see, so I don't know.</b></p> <p>13 <b>Probably.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Is it from your bedroom that you get the best view of</p> <p>15 the walkway?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Again, just for completeness, if we were moving along,</p> <p>18 and we now move to the lounge, again, would it be the</p> <p>19 case that if you were using the lounge windows that's on</p> <p>20 the south there, would you have to stretch out to try</p> <p>21 and see the walkway from there?</p> <p>22 <b>A. The walkway is a long stretch. It depends what part of</b></p> <p>23 <b>the walkway you're trying to see. If you're trying to</b></p> <p>24 <b>see where the entrance is, it will be hard. If you try</b></p> <p>25 <b>to look towards Latimer Road, then yes, you can, but if</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 151</p>
<p>1 being on?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. We know from your statement and from the plan --</p> <p>4 <b>A. Sorry, can I just say --</b></p> <p>5 Q. Yes.</p> <p>6 <b>A. I spent a lot of time in the bedroom. We spent a lot of</b></p> <p>7 <b>time in the bedroom. Like I said earlier, we didn't --</b></p> <p>8 <b>I don't know what's happening in the corridor. I wasn't</b></p> <p>9 <b>focusing on what was happening in the corridor. The</b></p> <p>10 <b>light might have been switched on, switched off, I do</b></p> <p>11 <b>not know.</b></p> <p>12 Q. That's fair enough, thank you.</p> <p>13 Was there a door into the lounge?</p> <p>14 <b>A. What do you mean?</b></p> <p>15 Q. Well, did you have a lounge door? If I were coming</p> <p>16 along your hallway to get into the lounge, would there</p> <p>17 be a door there?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Can you describe that door?</p> <p>20 <b>A. It was a wooden door with glass in it.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Where was the glass in the door?</p> <p>22 <b>A. It was just everywhere, I think.</b></p> <p>23 Q. So it had glass panels from top to bottom?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I think so.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Can I take you back, please, and it will be for the last</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 150</p>	<p>1 <b>you try to look towards where our entrance was, it would</b></p> <p>2 <b>be a bit harder from the front room.</b></p> <p>3 Q. It's that part that we're interested in, the bit that is</p> <p>4 attached to the tower. So the best view is from your</p> <p>5 bedroom?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. I think that's all the questions I've been asked to</p> <p>8 cover with you, Mr Talabi.</p> <p>9 I have one final matter for you.</p> <p>10 Is there anything further about the events of the</p> <p>11 night and what you saw and heard on that night, above</p> <p>12 what you've put in your written statement or in your</p> <p>13 answers today, that you think it important to draw to</p> <p>14 the attention of the chairman?</p> <p>15 <b>A. First and foremost, I would like to say thank you to</b></p> <p>16 <b>everyone that's supported us throughout this whole</b></p> <p>17 <b>process of trying to get justice. We really appreciate</b></p> <p>18 <b>it because it's hard but -- yes.</b></p> <p>19 <b>As well, I'd like to speak about the Fire Brigade,</b></p> <p>20 <b>if I can.</b></p> <p>21 <b>No one should ever have to go to work and not return</b></p> <p>22 <b>back to their family, no one, whether you're Fire</b></p> <p>23 <b>Brigade, whether you're a firefighter, whatever job you</b></p> <p>24 <b>do. But at the end of the day, it will be easier</b></p> <p>25 <b>sometimes if you just say the truth, because that way</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 152</p>

<p>1 people will forgive you. It will be easier for people 2 to forgive you.</p> <p>3 There are people that have lost family members in 4 the tower, and firefighters have lied on them and lied 5 about the missions that they went on.</p> <p>6 This is not fair on the families and everything 7 they've been through.</p> <p>8 They should be putting the blame on their bosses for 9 not giving them the right equipment to work that night, 10 because their bosses put them in danger as well as 11 putting us in danger.</p> <p>12 But you shouldn't lie on residents that are going 13 through enough as it is and say you did rescue missions 14 that you didn't do.</p> <p>15 I would like to thank Peter Herrera for opening that 16 door, because if he didn't open that door, I probably 17 would've gone through the window and I probably would've 18 died. Maybe, maybe not. But at the same time, Peter 19 Herrera made loads of mistakes that night.</p> <p>20 Peter Herrera is a human being. All he had to say 21 was, "I tried my best, I was scared". Don't lie on 22 people. Don't lie on innocent people. Don't lie on 23 people that have lost their family members.</p> <p>24 A lot of the firefighters, some of their statements, 25 have made the residents even worse. All they had to do</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 153</p>	<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you would like to go with the 2 usher, she'll look after you.</p> <p>3 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>4 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, I'll just hand over to Mr Millett 5 now.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, good afternoon.</p> <p>8 We have some reading to do and there are number of 9 statements to read into the record.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: I reckon I'll take about 45 minutes or so to do 12 so. I don't want to rush it. It may be convenient now 13 to take a short break for the shorthand writers, if 14 nobody else, or I can press straight on. I'm in your 15 hands.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I'm not getting a signal from my 17 right that a break is particularly requested by the 18 shorthand writers, so probably we can keep going.</p> <p>19 MR MILLETT: Very well.</p> <p>20 MAHMOUD AL-KARAD (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>21 MR MILLETT: The first statement I wish to read into the 22 record is that of Mr Mahmoud Al-Karad.</p> <p>23 That is under IWS00000821.</p> <p>24 It comes with two exhibits, MAK/1 and MAK/2 25 respectively IWS00000819 and IWS00000791.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 155</p>
<p>1 was come out, hold their hands up and say, "We tried".</p> <p>2 Listen, I put myself in your shoes. Would I want to 3 go into that building? No. So if you did, why don't 4 you come out and just say, "Listen, we tried our best, 5 we didn't have the right equipment". Don't lie.</p> <p>6 Because that way, even if we want to forgive you, it's 7 hard for us to forgive you that way. If some of them 8 had just opened up and said, "Listen, we couldn't do 9 it", I think we'll be able to forgive them.</p> <p>10 But, yeah, that's all I have to say.</p> <p>11 I would like to thank all the people, like I said 12 before, everyone that's supported us. Everyone, all the 13 people, all the survivors, and hopefully we'll continue 14 to stay strong together and get justice.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. Well, thank you very 16 much.</p> <p>17 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.</p> <p>18 MR RAWAT: Thank you very much, Mr Talabi.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mr Talabi, I think it's right 20 that I should thank you for coming to give your evidence 21 this afternoon. You had an horrendous experience and 22 it's obviously been quite difficult for you to come and 23 talk about it. We're all very grateful to you that you 24 have done so, and your evidence will help us a lot.</p> <p>25 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 154</p>	<p>1 Mr Al-Karad was from flat 112 on the 14th floor. He 2 wasn't present during the fire but he attended it while 3 it was in progress.</p> <p>4 His statement was made on 26 June 2018, and it's 5 accompanied by a signature with a statement of truth at 6 page 12.</p> <p>7 I'm going to read particular parts of it to you, 8 starting, if I can, at paragraph 11 on page 3.</p> <p>9 He says:</p> <p>10 "11. The front door of Flat 112 was wooden. It 11 closed automatically. The door did not have any damage 12 on 14 June 2017. It was the same front door as when we 13 had first moved in. It was not changed during our 14 tenancy. I think the door had four hinges but I am not 15 sure. The door had a metal letterbox which was easy to 16 open. When we first moved in, the door didn't use to 17 close by itself but after three months someone came to 18 change the mechanism of the door. It would then close 19 by itself.</p> <p>20 "12. There were no problems with electricity supply 21 and there were no power shortages. I do not know if the 22 electrical installations were ever checked. It could be 23 that I was out, at work or at college when they were 24 being checked. Omar or Mohammad never mentioned to me 25 that anyone had come to check the electrics."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 156</p>

<p>1 I should just say at this point that that's 2 a reference to his cousins, Omar and Mohammad. 3 Mr Al-Karad had lived in flat 112 with Omar and 4 Mohammad Alhajali for some time. They'd known each 5 other since childhood and moved into Grenfell Tower 6 in September 2016. 7 Continuing with the statement, at paragraph 16 he 8 says: 9 "16. There were two lifts which were often out of 10 service. There was always one out of service; sometimes 11 both would be out of service. Even when using it, it 12 was dangerous; the lifts made noise and touched the 13 wall. The air inside the lift was stuffy and it was 14 difficult to breathe well inside. There would also be 15 rubbish inside the lift at all times. Sometimes when 16 the lifts were not working, I would have to walk up to 17 the 14th floor. Usually it took three days to fix the 18 lifts when they were broken. In the event of fire I 19 knew not to use the lift. 20 "17. I used the staircase once every two weeks. 21 The lifts were always busy with many people waiting to 22 use them, especially when only one lift was working. 23 Rather than waiting I would walk up to the 14th floor 24 and allow the elderly and children to use the lift. The 25 stairwell had good lighting whenever I used them.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 157</p>	<p>1 "21. Before 14 June if there was a fire inside the 2 flat I would have left the building straight away. This 3 would be better than staying inside. It is safer to 4 leave and I feel like I would have control over the 5 situation. If there was a fire somewhere else, I would 6 probably wait for the fire brigade for instructions and 7 perhaps leave if it was a major fire. 8 "22. I am not sure if there was a communal fire 9 alarm system in Grenfell Tower. I did not see any. But 10 I know that there was a smoke alarm inside Flat 112." 11 Then he deals from paragraph 24 onwards with the 12 evening of 13 June. I'll read that. 13 I think probably to make something slightly clearer 14 from what I said before, I think I said before that he 15 was a cousin; in fact, he was close friends with Omar 16 and Mohammad, and the following passage makes that 17 slightly clearer: 18 "24. I woke up at around 10am on 13 June. I went to 19 work at about 11.30am. I was supposed to go home at 8pm 20 but my colleague and friend Amar Al-Khatib requested 21 that I stay with him until the shop closed at 2am. I 22 didn't have anything to do at home so I stayed with him. 23 "25. Mohammed and Omar's cousin Aasem Al Haj Ali 24 came to the shop at 11 pm to accompany us. We drank 25 coffee, ate dessert and talked. It was a really fun</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 159</p>
<p>1 However the staircase wasn't clean. People smoked weed 2 there so sometimes there was a smell. The steps on the 3 stairs were not even; some were higher than the others. 4 I used to exercise regularly in the stairwell, running 5 up and down, so I am very much aware of its general 6 condition. 7 "18. The door to the stairwell from our landing on 8 the 14th floor was wooden and it opened out to the 9 stairs. The door closed automatically and would shut 10 behind you. The stairwell had a handrail which was very 11 low. The stairs were not very wide and only two people 12 would be able to cross on the stairs. The flow of air 13 in the stairs was not great. I found myself getting out 14 of breath when exercising not only because I was 15 exercising but because the stairwell was a small space 16 with a lack of air flow." 17 At paragraph 20 on page 5, he goes on to say: 18 "20. The landlord, Mr Azab, showed us the fire exit 19 when we first moved in. This was the only information 20 that we received about fire safety. The information was 21 given orally. We knew that there was only one stairwell 22 to exit the tower. RBKC/TMO never gave us information 23 about fire safety. I am not aware of the London Fire 24 Brigade carrying out home fire safety checks in the days 25 before the fire.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 158</p>	<p>1 atmosphere." 2 Then at 26 he goes on to describe his experience on 3 the 14th itself. This goes on for a number of 4 paragraphs, down to paragraph 40, but I want to read it 5 all because its detail is important: 6 "26. At around 1.10am, Aasem received a call from 7 Mohammad. He looked distressed during the call and I 8 was concerned that something terrible had happened. He 9 came back to the table in a very rushed way and in a 10 panicked voice said, 'There is a fire inside your 11 building and Mohammad and Omar are still inside.' I was 12 not sure what was happening. I was thinking that they 13 may be trapped, that maybe the fire was inside our flat. 14 I thought that it was something dangerous. I was 15 worried about them. 16 "27. Aasem, Moaz (another friend) and I quickly 17 left the shop and rushed to the flat. We left within a 18 couple of minutes and Aasem drove us to Grenfell Tower. 19 I called Mohammad while I was in the car. He was 20 scared, panicking and was asking for help. He told me 21 to do anything that I could do. I called the fire 22 brigade straightaway. They told me that they were aware 23 of the fire and were already there. I think that these 24 calls were made from either Aasem or Moaz's mobile 25 phones. There is no record of me making them from my</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 160</p>



1 phone but I definitely know that I made them.  
 2 "28. While we were in the car and driving on the  
 3 A40 I saw the fire at the tower. The colour of the fire  
 4 was orange flames with black and grey smoke. The fire  
 5 was just on one side of the building and was on around  
 6 six floors. The fire was not on our side but was on the  
 7 side next to us. I had hope that Mohammed and Omar  
 8 would be able to leave because the fire brigade were  
 9 already on site and the fire was not directly on our  
 10 side.  
 11 "29. We reached the Grenfell area at approximately  
 12 1.45am. We could not get anywhere near the tower with  
 13 the car because the area was very busy so we drove to an  
 14 area five minutes away from the tower. I quickly got  
 15 out of the car and ran towards Grenfell Tower. I left  
 16 Aasem and Moaz who were still parking. I could see the  
 17 fire blazing and as I got nearer the tower, it was very  
 18 hot. The fire had got bigger and had spread since I had  
 19 first seen it when we were driving along the A40. I  
 20 wanted to go inside to see the situation and help my  
 21 friends and other people. I ran to the building from  
 22 the Grenfell Road entrance and I saw emergency services  
 23 and around 100 people who had gathered outside the  
 24 tower. I tried to go nearer the tower but the police  
 25 shouted at me to stay back.

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1 "30. I attach as exhibit MAK/2 to this statement my  
 2 telephone records for 14 June 2017 with Mohammad's  
 3 number highlighted. I called Mohammad on his number  
 4 [redacted] again at 1.56am while I was standing outside  
 5 the building. I told him to put his hand up and, when  
 6 he did, I could see him. The fire was about 30 metres  
 7 away from where he was standing. He told me that he and  
 8 Omar were inside the flat and that they couldn't go  
 9 outside because the hallway was filled with black smoke.  
 10 He told me to speak to the police and to get help. I  
 11 remember the words that he said to me in a very scared  
 12 and desperate tone: 'We are dying inside. In the name  
 13 of Allah, help us. Ask the police to send a helicopter,  
 14 anything. We are dying'. This made me very sad  
 15 worried, scared and confused. I went to the police  
 16 straightaway. I told them that my flatmates were still  
 17 inside the flat and needed help. I asked them for  
 18 advice as to what they should do. A policeman told me  
 19 to tell them to close the windows, put towels under the  
 20 front door and to stay inside. I called Mohammad back  
 21 at 2am to tell him this information. He told me that  
 22 the fire brigade had already come to his flat and told  
 23 him and Omar to stay inside the flat. He told me that  
 24 they told him that they were coming soon to help him and  
 25 that he should wait. I tried to calm him down and to

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1 make him relaxed. He was panicking. I approached the  
 2 police again because I was outside the police cordon and  
 3 the police were the first point of contact for  
 4 bystanders. I asked them to help Mohammed and Omar.  
 5 The officer took notes asking me their floor, flat  
 6 number and the number of people inside their flat. At  
 7 that time I think only Omar and Mohammed were inside  
 8 their flat. The police kept telling me to tell him not  
 9 to go out of the flat, to put towels at the bottom of  
 10 the doors and close all the doors. I was telling  
 11 Mohammad to stay where he was. I was just passing on  
 12 the information that I was getting from the police, who  
 13 were getting information from the control room. I  
 14 trusted them. Thinking back now, I would have told him  
 15 to leave and ignore the stay put advice.  
 16 "31. Between 2.00am and 2.46am I called Mohammed  
 17 seven times to ask him if help had arrived. Each time  
 18 he kept saying no and I could hear that he was getting  
 19 more and more scared and panicked. During one of the  
 20 phone calls (I think at 2.36am) he told me that he and  
 21 Omar were moved to Flat 113 by firefighters and that  
 22 they were there with six other people. I thought that  
 23 it was strange that they had just been moved to another  
 24 flat rather than being brought out to safety. I could  
 25 see that the fire was getting worse and was

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1 uncontrollable and the safest place for them would have  
 2 been outside. I was also seeing that other residents  
 3 had managed to leave the flat so it was more than  
 4 possible for my friends to leave too.  
 5 "32. The fire was just getting worse and was  
 6 spreading upwards. It was on the side of the tower  
 7 facing the gym. The flames were orange and yellow in  
 8 colour. It spread all the way up to the building and  
 9 then moved left to the side that faces Grenfell Road  
 10 which was the same side as our flat. I was afraid for  
 11 Mohammed and Omar. I thought that they were going to  
 12 die and I was shocked. I was getting even more worried  
 13 because the fire was spreading. I didn't know what to  
 14 do. In one of the calls Mohammed asked me where the  
 15 fire was. He was scared that the fire was coming to his  
 16 flat. I didn't know what to tell him because I didn't  
 17 want to scare him even more.  
 18 "33. Throughout the hours I was standing outside  
 19 Grenfell Tower I could see parts of the building falling  
 20 around from all sides of the block which were on fire.  
 21 The material which covered the outside of the building  
 22 was burning and falling. We were standing around 40  
 23 metres away from the building. The police were pushing  
 24 people further and further back.  
 25 "34. I spoke to Mohammed again at 2.55am. He told

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1 me that he couldn't see Omar. He was crying. I told  
 2 him to shout out for Omar. He told me that he is dying.  
 3 His voice was very low. He also cried telling me not to  
 4 tell his family about the fire. He told me to tell his  
 5 family that he loved them and to tell his mother to  
 6 forgive him for any wrongs he may have done. I had no  
 7 words to say. This was the most difficult conversation  
 8 of my life. I was crying inside and just broke down. I  
 9 did not want to show Mohammed what I was feeling inside  
 10 so I told him to calm down and that he, God willing,  
 11 would get out of the fire. After every phone call I  
 12 kept going back to the telling them that my friends were  
 13 still in the tower. I kept going back to the police  
 14 because they were the first point of contact for people.  
 15 "35. At 3.19am I spoke to Mohammed for the last  
 16 time. I told him to leave the flat and to run down the  
 17 stairs. He said, 'I can't leave. There is a mother and  
 18 child with me. How can I leave them?' He told me that  
 19 there were eight of them before inside Flat 113 but that  
 20 there was now only four. He told me to tell the fire  
 21 brigade to keep hosing Flat 113 with water. I went to  
 22 the police and told them what Mohammad had told me.  
 23 They just said OK and that they would inform the control  
 24 room.  
 25 "36. 10 minutes after I had spoken to Mohammed, I

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1 got a call from another friend, Adnan, who told me that  
 2 Omar was outside. I was relieved but also confused. I  
 3 had just spoken to Mohamed and he was still inside. I  
 4 asked Adnan where they were and I made my way to them.  
 5 Omar was sitting next to a tree near Latymer[sic] Road  
 6 Underground Station. I ran towards Omar; his face was  
 7 black from the smoke and he was wearing an oxygen mask.  
 8 Hashem and Adnan were with him. Omar was inside the  
 9 police cordon and the police didn't let me go inside the  
 10 cordon. I shouted to Omar, 'Thank God, you are fine'.  
 11 Omar looked very distressed. He was crying and was very  
 12 angry. He was coughing and was finding it difficult to  
 13 speak because of the smoke. He knew that Mohammed was  
 14 still inside. I remember that he called Mohammed while  
 15 he was outside and told him to leave and not to listen  
 16 to the fire brigade. I remember him saying, 'Just  
 17 leave; you can do it. It isn't that difficult.'  
 18 "37. I went back to the place that I had been  
 19 standing on Grenfell Road. I was trying to ask the  
 20 police for help. I kept going back telling them that  
 21 there were people still trapped in Flat 113. They told  
 22 me that they would send a request to the control room.  
 23 Many of the people who had gathered outside were very  
 24 angry at the police and the emergency services. They  
 25 did not give people any information. I recall someone

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1 shouting: 'Why are you not helping people? It has been  
 2 four hours and the fire is still blazing'. The fire had  
 3 spread even more and the smoke was getting thicker but  
 4 Mohammed was still not getting help.  
 5 "38. I was really worried about my friend. I kept  
 6 going back to the police to put pressure on them to do  
 7 something. But there was no help. They kept telling me  
 8 that requests would be made to the control room.  
 9 Between 4.26-5.05am I called Mohammed eight times. The  
 10 phone wasn't ringing but was just going to voicemail. I  
 11 thought that it was over. I lost hope that he was going  
 12 to make it. I thought that he had burned or that the  
 13 smoke made it difficult for him to breathe.  
 14 "39. At around 5am I saw Amal Al-Huthaifi,  
 15 Mohammad's fiancé[sic], outside. She was crying and  
 16 asked me why I hadn't told her about the fire. I tried  
 17 to calm her down. Also, I was told that Omar had been  
 18 taken to King's College hospital by an ambulance because  
 19 he was coughing. At this point, I could see that the  
 20 whole tower was on fire. I could hear the fire burning  
 21 and the noise from the bits of falling building.  
 22 "40. I sat down. I was completely shocked at what  
 23 was happening. I had just seen Mohammed the morning  
 24 before. The hours went by so quick. I didn't know what  
 25 was going on. I just froze. I put my head down.

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1 Watching the fire and hearing Mohammad on the phone  
 2 being so scared made me very upset. I had never seen  
 3 anything like that before. I didn't cry because I  
 4 couldn't cry. I had to keep strong because his fiancée  
 5 and his cousin were there. I did not want to upset them  
 6 even further. I cried a month later when everything  
 7 just came back to me. Until now I still remember  
 8 everything he said to me over the phone that night.  
 9 "41. I stayed outside the tower until approximately  
 10 9am. Mohammad didn't still come out."  
 11 The rest of his statement will stand, of course --  
 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.  
 13 MR MILLETT: -- in its entirety as evidence to the inquiry,  
 14 Mr Chairman.  
 15 AMAL AL-HUTHAIFI (evidence read into the record)  
 16 MR MILLETT: The next statement that I would like to read  
 17 into the record is the statement of Amal Al-Huthaifi,  
 18 the fiancée of Mr Alhajali. It's IWS00000637.  
 19 This morning, Mr Chairman, we heard the evidence of  
 20 Omar Alhajali, whose brother Mohammad passed away in the  
 21 fire.  
 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.  
 23 MR MILLETT: As I say, this is the statement of his fiancée.  
 24 They had met in 2015 and they had begun  
 25 a relationship, and she explains in her statement that

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1 they had discussed marriage soon after meeting.  
 2 Mohammad was traditional in that way, as she says.  
 3 She was with Mohammad until 8.30 pm on the night of  
 4 13 June, the evening before the fire.  
 5 She received a message from him around 12.10 am,  
 6 when he told her that he had returned home to the tower.  
 7 We can pick it up, if we can, at paragraph 20.  
 8 She says there:  
 9 "20. I was with Mohammed on 13th June until around  
 10 8:30pm. I was on the bus with him going home. I went  
 11 home to make some food. He told me that he was going to  
 12 see a Syrian family with his brother Omar and his cousin  
 13 to break his fast. That was the last time I saw him.  
 14 "21. I have a message on my phone from him which  
 15 was sent at 9pm which says that he was on his way to  
 16 break fast. We were messaging back and forth after this  
 17 and we spoke on the phone as well. At 12:10am he sent  
 18 me a message to say that he was now back at home. I was  
 19 already in bed asleep and so I didn't read this.  
 20 "22. I was asleep through the fire so I didn't know  
 21 what was happening. My phone was on silent so I didn't  
 22 wake up when people were calling me. I woke up between  
 23 5am and 6am and I saw that I had missed calls on my  
 24 phone from people. The calls were made to me at around  
 25 3am. I answered a call from a woman who was with Omar

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1 at the Tower. She said to me 'don't panic but there has  
 2 been a fire. Omar is ok but he is going to hospital but  
 3 we can't find Mohammed'. She told me not to panic and  
 4 she said she would come and get me in her car.  
 5 "23. I waited for her to come and get me but she  
 6 then called me and told me she couldn't get to my house  
 7 because of the traffic and the roads being closed. I  
 8 left my house in my pyjamas. I just left. I got on a  
 9 bus but the bus only took me a couple of stops because  
 10 the roads around Ladbroke Grove were closed. I got off  
 11 the bus and I ran to the Tower. I could see the smoke  
 12 in the sky.  
 13 "24. In my mind I was thinking 'it won't be that  
 14 bad. Come on, we are living in Britain'. I thought to  
 15 myself that it is such a huge block of flats, there is  
 16 no way he didn't get out. I thought that if there was a  
 17 fire at the top or at the bottom of the Tower then he  
 18 would have gotten out because he is in the middle on the  
 19 14th floor. I was picturing a fire in a flat. I didn't  
 20 imagine that the fire had spread and the whole Tower had  
 21 been on fire.  
 22 "25. I was running and as I got closer to the Tower  
 23 I could see that there was police everywhere and there  
 24 were more and more people around looking up. I wanted  
 25 to get to the entrance of the Tower to see if Mohammed

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1 was there. If he was still in the Tower I wanted to be  
 2 there as he came out so he would see me. I saw there  
 3 was a police cordon and tape and so I couldn't get to  
 4 the front of the Tower. The police kept stopping me  
 5 getting any closer. I went around and around the Tower  
 6 trying to get closer but I couldn't get any closer  
 7 because of the police. I tried for such a long time.  
 8 As I was approaching the Tower I could see the smoke in  
 9 the air and I could smell the burning. I can't describe  
 10 how it smelt but the smoke and smell was so bad.  
 11 "26. I was so tired because and there was so much  
 12 heat. I think it was heat from the Tower. There was  
 13 ash falling next to my feet even though I was quite a  
 14 way back from the Tower. I could see bits of black on  
 15 the floor. When I saw the Tower for the first time I  
 16 was shocked. It was black. I didn't think it would be  
 17 like that. The most I thought would be a floor was on  
 18 fire. It was like a movie. It was so surreal. There  
 19 were so many people there and so much media. The  
 20 helicopter was in the sky above the Tower. I felt like  
 21 I was dreaming, or like I was in a movie. I was  
 22 shocked. It looked like a warzone. It was crazy.  
 23 "27. There were children in their uniform sitting  
 24 on the ground. People were crying. I saw so many  
 25 volunteers running around handing out water to people.

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1 "28. I got in contact with Hashem and Mahmoud who  
 2 were both at the Tower looking for Mohammed. It was  
 3 difficult to find them. There were so many people and  
 4 so many places blocked off The police were everywhere  
 5 and residents were all over the floor. It was really  
 6 hard to find the two of them. I eventually found them  
 7 both and I was so tired from looking for them and  
 8 Mohammed. We started looking for him together.  
 9 "29. Every time we asked people around where can we  
 10 find him and that he was missing, people told us to  
 11 register his name in different places around the area.  
 12 We went to refuge stops to write his name down on a  
 13 list. We asked the police about the hospitals the  
 14 residents had been taken to but the police would not  
 15 give us any information. I was crying. I was really  
 16 distressed. We were running all around to see if any  
 17 one had seen him. No one was helping us.  
 18 "30. My sister and my friend came to the area to  
 19 help me look for Mohammed. They told me to cover my  
 20 mouth because the smoke and the smell coming from the  
 21 Tower was so bad and they were concerned about me  
 22 inhaling it and the damage it could do if I did."  
 23 Can I just read also paragraphs 11, 16 and 17.  
 24 At paragraph 11, she says:  
 25 "11. The lifts were often out of order. Mohammed

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<p>1 would get worried about me using them because he was                  2 worried that I might get trapped in there. He didn't                  3 think that they were safe to use. Every time I went to                  4 see him, he would come out his flat and get in the lift                  5 to the ground floor to meet me, and we would get in the                  6 lift together."                  7 Then at paragraph 16 and 17, she says:                  8 "16. I don't know whether Mohammed's front door                  9 automatically closed. I think it did. I don't recall                  10 there being issues with the front door to the flat. I                  11 had seen the workmen come to fix the entrance door to                  12 Grenfell Tower.                  13 "17. I never heard a fire alarm go off in                  14 Mohammed's flat or in the Tower itself. I don't                  15 remember seeing fire alarms in the corridors. I don't                  16 remember if Mohammed had fire alarms in the flat itself.                  17 I don't remember there being any fires when Mohammed                  18 lived there. Where I lived, we had signs on the walls                  19 about what to do when there is a fire and we had fire                  20 extinguishers in the building but in Grenfell Tower I                  21 don't remember seeing a fire extinguisher in the                  22 building or signs up with what to do in a fire."                  23 As I say, Mr Chairman, as with all these witness                  24 statements, the entirety of that statement will stand in                  25 the record and be taken into account by the inquiry in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 173</p>	<p>1 "20. I got to the Tower at around 2:00am and ran                  2 towards the building.                  3 "21. I called Zainab back at 02:03am to identify                  4 where she was. She told me she was still inside the                  5 tower in flat 113.                  6 "22. I called 999 again at 02:05am but I couldn't                  7 get through as the phone kept ringing.                  8 "23. At 02:12am, a Fire Control operator called me                  9 back. I missed their initial call but I called them                  10 back and they told me that they were only speaking to                  11 people who were inside the building and people inside                  12 should call 999.                  13 "24. Up until 02:44am, I was on the phone on and                  14 off with Zainab (a total of 10 calls). I was running                  15 around trying to speak with the authorities to                  16 communicate where Zainab was and therefore we had                  17 multiple exchanges of calls.                  18 "25. During my telephone calls with her, she said                  19 that firefighters had moved her to flat 113 on the                  20 opposite side of her floor. That was Olu's flat; he                  21 escaped from the 14th floor. I told her to 'get out now                  22 now!.'                  23 I will actually read a little bit further on in                  24 this, if I may:                  25 "26. Sometime around 3am I remember taking a video</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 175</p>
<p>1 its deliberations.                  2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.                  3 FRANCIS DEAN (evidence read into the record)                  4 MR MILLETT: The next witness statement I'd like to read                  5 into the record is that of Francis Dean, who is a friend                  6 of Zainab Deen.                  7 His statement is IWS00001048, and it includes FD/1,                  8 an exhibit, which is screenshots of phone calls made.                  9 The statement of truth is dated 28 August 2018, and is                  10 at page 9 of the statement, together with his signature.                  11 He had known Zainab Deen since 2015 and they were                  12 close friends. They are not related. The name is                  13 coincidental.                  14 She initially employed him to do a decorating job                  15 for her, as he explains. He describes her as his                  16 sister, although, as I say, they're not related.                  17 On the night of 13 June 2017, Mr Deen had given                  18 Zainab a lift back to Grenfell Tower, and they got there                  19 around 9.30 to 10.00 pm. He spent time with her and her                  20 son, Jeremiah, before leaving to go home for the night.                  21 Zainab then called Mr Dean at 01.38 am and had told                  22 him there was a fire in the tower. He made a 999 call                  23 straight after that to report the incident.                  24 Can I pick it up at paragraph 20, and I'll read                  25 first of all to 25. He says at paragraph 20:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 174</p>	<p>1 ... I recall recording the tower for about 30 seconds                  2 before wondering why I was filming. I considered how I                  3 could try and gain access to the tower to save Zainab                  4 and Jeremiah[sic].                  5 "27. I remember hearing a man trying to get to                  6 someone on 22nd/23rd floor.                  7 "28. Standing at a cordon, I was shouting to the                  8 police to tell them she is in floor 14, flat 113. The                  9 police confirmed the flat number and asked me what                  10 floor. I replied that we've got a young child in there                  11 and they're suffocating ...                  12 "29. She informed me that Jeremiah had collapsed                  13 and I told her to get some wet blankets; to cover them                  14 around him and to cover herself. I told her to run but                  15 she said the smoke was too much. I don't know why they                  16 told her to stay inside the flat ..."                  17 And then at paragraph 32 he says:                  18 "32. At around 03:17am, I called my duty manager to                  19 tell him that I am not going to come into work tomorrow.                  20 At the same time I was running to try gain access into                  21 the building to rescue Zainab and Jeremiah.                  22 "33. I ran around the back of the building as from                  23 when I was doing the painting and decorating of Zainab's                  24 flat, I recall that there is another entrance on the                  25 other side of the law centre. I jumped over fences of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 176</p>

1 other flats and a few gates and I managed to get to the  
 2 stairs on the outside of the building which is the top  
 3 entrance to the tower.  
 4 "34. At that point I looked up and the fire seemed  
 5 that it was at its peak, you could feel the heat,  
 6 something flew out over me (I think it was a body).  
 7 Things were just flying out, I could hear screams and I  
 8 could hear gasping for air. They were shouting 'help,  
 9 help' the kids were screaming. The noise haunts me. I  
 10 could hear the noise of the helicopters and see the  
 11 smoke above me. I was screaming, I was on the phone to  
 12 Zainab and she was crying. She was screaming and she  
 13 was helpless. I told her that I was coming to get her.  
 14 "35. I came down and tried to enter but I was  
 15 [refused] entry. The firefighters were asking me to get  
 16 away due to falling debris."  
 17 He describes further attempts at entrance into the  
 18 building.  
 19 Then at 39 he starts the description of the  
 20 circumstances surrounding his call with Zainab, where  
 21 Zainab speaks to the firefighter.  
 22 "39. I was near the basement getting frustrated and  
 23 kicking around the bin and some bottles and I noticed a  
 24 fireman sitting on the floor to my right and they were  
 25 marking on a whiteboard. They were exhausted they

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1 couldn't fight it. I told them she was on the 14th  
 2 floor in flat 113.  
 3 "40. I gave the firefighter my phone and I asked  
 4 him to speak to Zainab. I said it's my girl or my baby  
 5 and she is trapped up there on the 14th Floor. I told  
 6 them they have been moved to flat 113. I thought they  
 7 were going to get her out and that is why they prevented  
 8 me from entering the tower. The fireman (I think his  
 9 name was Chris Batchelor) said to Zainab 'lay down low,  
 10 lay down flat we are coming to get you'. So I expected  
 11 that. He spoke to her for over an hour and I thought  
 12 they were going to rescue her. But the fire was getting  
 13 bigger and bigger you could see the fire growing, the  
 14 red flames, the yellow flames. I was waiting for people  
 15 to come out of the building whilst the firefighter was  
 16 focussed on Zainab. I could hear him telling her to  
 17 stay low and you could hear every now and then a boom  
 18 from the building.  
 19 "41. I didn't see more than about 5-10 people come  
 20 out of the building since he had my phone.  
 21 "42. She never came out of the flat and when the  
 22 fireman gave my phone back it was daylight. When he  
 23 gave me the phone back he told me the phone had died and  
 24 so I ended the call as when I put it to my ear the phone  
 25 went silent. I then called her back and the phone went

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1 to voicemail. This was sometime after 5:00am. I just  
 2 thought the phone had died. I was not 100% sure that  
 3 she had died but I suspected from the call that she did  
 4 not make it. There was still some hope in me that she  
 5 was still alive.  
 6 "43. I recall leaning against the fence and he told  
 7 me to walk with him to the fire rescue van. I did  
 8 suspect something had happened.  
 9 "44. The fireman asked me to write down my name and  
 10 phone number and Zainab's and Jeremiah's[sic] name on a  
 11 piece of paper."  
 12 Mr Chairman, that is all I think I need to read from  
 13 Mr Dean's statement.  
 14 His statement will be taken into account in its  
 15 entirety in the usual way.  
 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.  
 17 MR MILLETT: I'm reminded from behind me there are also two  
 18 further exhibits, FD/2 and FD/3, which I shall just  
 19 mention into the record, IWS00001004, and IWS00001005.  
 20 Those are two videos which are exhibited to his  
 21 statements.  
 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, thank you.  
 23 TIMOTHY MURPHY (evidence read into the record)  
 24 MR MILLETT: The next witness statement that I am going to  
 25 read is that of Mr Timothy Murphy. He is a relative of

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1 Denis Murphy.  
 2 The reference to that statement is IWS00001049.  
 3 It's dated and signed on 18 August 2018. The statement  
 4 of truth and signature are on page 3.  
 5 He is Mr Murphy's brother, as he explains in  
 6 paragraph 2.  
 7 He had a number of telephone calls with his brother  
 8 in the early hours of 14 June 2017, after his wife had  
 9 woken him up because she'd seen some missed calls and  
 10 voicemail notifications on her telephone.  
 11 Throughout the night, Timothy Murphy and other  
 12 family members attempted to find out what was going on  
 13 with Denis, and some members attended Grenfell itself to  
 14 try to help him.  
 15 Picking it up, if I can, at paragraphs 4 to 6, he  
 16 says:  
 17 "4. I woke up immediately, listened to the voice  
 18 mail message and straight away phoned Denis, by this  
 19 time I think it was around 1.36 a.m. Denis answered  
 20 immediately, I could hear in his voice that he was  
 21 distressed and in a state of panic. He told me that the  
 22 flats were on fire. Initially I thought the fire was in  
 23 Denis's flat and one of the first things I said to him  
 24 was 'Den get to the window and get some air'. I was  
 25 concerned for Denis's physical health as he had

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<p>1 emphysema. Den said to me that he could not go to the                  2 window as that was where all the smoke was piling in                  3 from. I then told him to get out of the flat. I have a                  4 memory of him going to the door as I heard him opening                  5 it but as quickly as I heard it open, I heard him shut                  6 it. He then said to me that it was pitch black out in                  7 the lobby and that smoke was coming into the flat. I                  8 could hear the alarm ringing throughout my call with                  9 Den. Den was coughing, I was worried about him.                  10 "5. I told him to go into the bathroom, get towels,                  11 wet them and put them around the door and make a tent                  12 for him self with the wet towels, I then told him that I                  13 was going to call the emergency services, 999 and I said                  14 to him not to use his phone or answer it until I phoned                  15 him back as I would phone him again once I had spoken                  16 with 999 emergency services.                  17 "6. I then called 999 and told them about the fire                  18 and gave details about Denis to them. I made the 999                  19 call at around 1.46 a.m. I remember telling them that                  20 Denis had breathing problems. I immediately phoned                  21 Denis after this call to let him know that help was on                  22 the way to him, I reassured him. At that time I was not                  23 really sure of the severity of the fire or indeed                  24 whether it was in Denis's flat or in the entire block."                  25 Like all the others, Mr Chairman, Mr Murphy's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 181</p>	<p>1 not, I am trapped and I cannot breathe. I told him to                  2 stay calm, to cover his face with something wet and to                  3 lie on the floor as there was more oxygen there and I                  4 told him we were on our way to him. I could hear a                  5 woman's voice in the background shouting that an                  6 ambulance was needed. I then asked him where he was and                  7 he said that he was in a neighbour's flat. I was                  8 distressed at this point and handed the phone to Peter                  9 to speak to his Dad. Peter was very upset and said to                  10 his Dad that we were on our way to him and that he was                  11 to listen what I had told him to do.                  12 "11. We got there at 3 am and it was complete                  13 pandemonium. As soon as I saw the building I was                  14 utterly and totally horrified and my heart sank deep                  15 inside of me. We could not get near the Tower Block                  16 itself and we had to park by Avondale Park. Peter                  17 jumped out of the car and ran off. I got out of the car                  18 and as I started to walk towards the tower I saw a                  19 policeman and I said to him my brother is in there on                  20 the 14th floor, please can you find out if they have got                  21 him out. I was really upset and the policeman phoned                  22 through to someone and then said to us there is a                  23 glimmer of hope; the firemen have reached the 20th                  24 floor. These firemen are not assigned to your brother's                  25 floor but they reached the 20th so there is hope that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 183</p>
<p>1 statement will stand as evidence in its entirety to the                  2 inquiry and will be taken into account.                  3 ANNE MURPHY (evidence read into the record)                  4 MR MILLETT: The next statement I would wish to read into                  5 the record is the statement of Anne Murphy. She is the                  6 sister of Denis and Timothy Murphy.                  7 She was awoken at about 01.45 on 13 June by family                  8 members telling her that there had been a fire at                  9 Denis's building, and she went to Grenfell Tower with                  10 her partner and her nephew, Peter Murphy -- who has also                  11 given a statement, which I shall also read into the                  12 record shortly -- and Denis's former partner, Tracey.                  13 The statement itself is under IWS00001017, dated                  14 1 July 2018. There is a statement of truth in                  15 paragraph 1, and a signature on page 6. There's also                  16 a statement of truth on page 6 as well.                  17 At paragraph 10, she picks up the story when they                  18 were in the car. I'll just read three paragraphs, 10 to                  19 12:                  20 "10. As soon as we were all in the car, I guess it                  21 was around 2.30 a.m by this time, I called Denis's                  22 mobile phone, as soon as he answered the phone I could                  23 hear he was struggling with his breathing. Denis lived                  24 with Emphysema so he struggled with breathing anyway. I                  25 said to him it's me are you ok? He said No sis, I am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 182</p>	<p>1 they reached the 14th floor and got him out. I remember                  2 getting very upset and distressed as at the same time I                  3 overheard on the officer's radio that they were using                  4 the leisure centre as a morgue, so I knew then that some                  5 people had died.                  6 "12. We continued walking towards the tower and we                  7 then reached the cordon. People were everywhere. The                  8 whole scene was crazy, people were crying, some                  9 screaming, some silent, I could see people in the                  10 windows of the Tower block, we overheard people saying                  11 that people had jumped from the burning tower. Debris                  12 was coming down from the building, the fire was raging                  13 very high up the building, the fire was more on the                  14 right hand side from where we were standing. It was                  15 like somebody had put a flame to a tissue and fire was                  16 rising very quickly. I could see that the fire had                  17 reached Denis's flat. The whole Tower block was going                  18 up like a tinder box. A firefighter actually asked my                  19 partner, Brian, to check in his pocket to see if he had                  20 a bunch of keys in there as he couldn't check himself                  21 because he was carrying equipment. Brian puts his hand                  22 in the firefighters pocket and told him there was a                  23 bunch of keys, the firefighter asked him to leave them                  24 in his pocket. We were so distressed and I then got                  25 worried about where were Peter and his Mum Tracey, who</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 184</p>

<p>1 had gone to look for him after he jumped out of the car                  2 when we arrived. Tracey apart from being Denis's ex                  3 wife she is also my close friend and remained a close                  4 friend of Denis's. My partner Brian then phoned them to                  5 see where they were and we agreed to meet them back                  6 where we had parked the car."                  7 Like the other statements, Mr Chairman,                  8 Anne Murphy's statement will also stand in the record                  9 and be taken into account in its entirety.                  10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.                  11 PETER MURPHY (evidence read into the record)                  12 MR MILLETT: The final statement I would wish to read into                  13 the record this afternoon is that of Mr Peter Murphy.                  14 He is Denis's son.                  15 His statement is under the reference IWS00000675.                  16 It was signed on 25 May 2018, and on page 6 is                  17 a signature and a statement of truth.                  18 Peter Murphy was the only son of Denis Murphy. As                  19 you know, Denis had lived in flat 111 since the 1990s.                  20 Growing up, Peter Murphy had spent weekends living with                  21 his father at that address and continued to visit his                  22 father regularly up until June 2017.                  23 It is also right to say that Denis Murphy's mother,                  24 Peter's grandmother, also lived locally to the tower.                  25 I want to pick it up, if I can, at paragraphs 7 and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 185</p>	<p>1 that door before it used to be a plan solid fire door."                  2 Then at paragraphs 14 to 17 he gives his account of                  3 his recollection, or the main part of his recollection,                  4 of the night:                  5 "14. I was woken up by my Mum at around 2am. She                  6 said my Aunt Anne had called her and said there was a                  7 fire in my Dad's flat and we needed to go over so I got                  8 up and got ready. Mum said Uncle Tim (my Dad's brother)                  9 had called Aunt Anne to tell her that he had spoken to                  10 Dad who told him there was a fire in the Tower and it                  11 was serious.                  12 "15. My Aunt Anne and her partner my Uncle Brian                  13 came to our house in their car and then Mum and I joined                  14 them in their car and drove over to Grenfell. As we                  15 were driving over to the Tower my Aunt rang my Dad I                  16 think it was about 2.30 a.m. But cannot really be sure                  17 of the time. I could tell by her voice that my Dad was                  18 not well. My Aunt was telling him to put a wet flannel                  19 over his face. She also asked him where he was. He                  20 said he was in a neighbour's flat. Dad was in a panicky                  21 stage when she passed the phone to me. I remember him                  22 saying to me Boysie, Boysie, I can't breathe, I am                  23 stuck, I cannot get out, I do not know what to do. I do                  24 not know what to do. Boysie was my Dad's pet name for                  25 me; he had called me that for as long as I can remember.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 187</p>
<p>1 8, first of all.                  2 7, I'll just identify. It expresses Mr Murphy's                  3 frustrations with the refurb.                  4 Then at 8, on page 3, at the top of the the page, he                  5 says:                  6 "8. He had arthritis and more often than not during                  7 the works to Grenfell only one lift would be working                  8 making it very difficult for people like him to get in                  9 and out of the building. When the works were completed                  10 he would have to come out of the building via the                  11 walkway level rather the street level. He did not like                  12 the new entrance system that you had to use to access                  13 the building. You had only 10 seconds to get through                  14 two doors before you got to the lifts; otherwise you                  15 were trapped until someone came!! When my Nan would                  16 come to Grenfell to visit. Dad, he would always come                  17 down to meet her because she would not have been able to                  18 get into the building and to the lifts within the                  19 10 seconds."                  20 And then at paragraph 12, just a point on the doors,                  21 he says:                  22 "12. My Dad's flat was a one bedroom flat. His                  23 front door was painted blue with a knocker. It looked                  24 like a wooden door but once you opened the door you                  25 could see it had a PVC interior. He did not always have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 186</p>	<p>1 I told him to do as Aunt Anne had asked him, put a wet                  2 flannel over your face. I was really upset at this                  3 point, I could hear him coughing and people screaming                  4 and someone saying we need an ambulance. I now believe                  5 it was Zainab Deen saying I need an ambulance. This was                  6 the very first time and indeed the last time that I had                  7 heard my Dad so scared. I said to him 'Dad, we are                  8 coming to get you right now, please put the flannel on                  9 your face to help your breathing'. That was my last                  10 conversation with my Dad although I did not think at the                  11 time that it was to be my last conversation. When I                  12 composed myself I tried phoning him again, his phone                  13 just kept ringing out he did not pick up.                  14 "16. We got to the Tower at around 3 a.m. We                  15 turned down Wilsham Street. We saw the Tower on fire.                  16 I jumped out of the car, the fire was more pronounced on                  17 the right side of the Tower. I ran to where the cordon                  18 was. There were a number of fire engines already there                  19 at that stage and they were putting up equipment. The                  20 fire fighters were walking to the Tower as the road was                  21 narrow and all backed up so one had to walk up the road                  22 to get to the Tower. The scene was chaotic, there were                  23 lots of people around, some on their phones, talking and                  24 videoing, some just stood watching. There were people                  25 screaming and I remember a buzz of what I think was a</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 188</p>

1 helicopter above us. There was stuff floating off the  
 2 tower and landing on cars. The smell was awful. My  
 3 eyes were stinging from the heat. There were sirens  
 4 blasting out, flashing lights. The heat was immense.  
 5 "17. At the cordon there were 3 or 4 police  
 6 officers at the front. I had to wait my turn to speak  
 7 with one of them. I told them that my Dad was on the  
 8 14th Floor, I did not have the flat number but he was in  
 9 a neighbour's flat on that floor and was struggling to  
 10 breathe. The police officer told me that they, I  
 11 presume he meant the fire fighters that they had got to  
 12 the 20th floor and that people who were being brought  
 13 out were going by ambulance to Clarendon Road and he  
 14 told me to take myself down there as my Dad may be  
 15 there. I started to walk to Clarendon Road, at this  
 16 time, my Mum had found me. With my Mum I then spoke to  
 17 another officer, asking him about my Dad, telling him  
 18 what floor he lived on and where he was. The officer  
 19 said he was going to find out for me, speak with a  
 20 doctor but he did not get back to me. There was no  
 21 order amongst the emergency services, nobody seemed to  
 22 be in control."  
 23 Then one can continue to read on about the further  
 24 calls and what happened afterwards.  
 25 Again, Mr Chairman, that statement, the statement of

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1 Peter Murphy, Denis's son, will stand in its entirety as  
 2 evidence in the record for the inquiry to take into  
 3 account in full.  
 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.  
 5 MR MILLETT: There were originally scheduled two further  
 6 statements to read this afternoon for the Al-Assads,  
 7 Zohra and Ahmed Al-Assad. I've been asked by their RLRs  
 8 not to read those into the record today. I will not do  
 9 so, but I hope to be able to do so in due course.  
 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So that concludes the statements  
 11 that are to be read today?  
 12 MR MILLETT: It does.  
 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, at that point I think it right  
 14 that I should record my thanks and, indeed, the thanks  
 15 of all those concerned to all those people who have  
 16 taken the time and trouble to make statements.  
 17 I do want to assure them that the evidence is very  
 18 valuable and it will form part of the inquiry's record,  
 19 and it will be treated just as much as evidence as the  
 20 evidence of those who have been called to give their  
 21 testimony in person.  
 22 So thank you very much, those of you who made these  
 23 statements, which we've now heard read out.  
 24 MR MILLETT: Yes.  
 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.

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1 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, thank you. That concludes the  
 2 inquiry's business for the day.  
 3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right.  
 4 MR MILLETT: We'll start again tomorrow morning with our  
 5 next oral witness.  
 6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good.  
 7 Well, thank you very much, Mr Millett. We'll break  
 8 now and resume at 10 o'clock tomorrow.  
 9 Thank you very much, 10 o'clock tomorrow, please.  
 10 (4.30 pm)  
 11 (The hearing adjourned until Wednesday, 17 October 2018  
 12 at 10.00 am)  
 13 I N D E X  
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 23 ANNE MURPHY (evidence read into the .....182  
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 24  
 25 PETER MURPHY (evidence read into the .....185  
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 2 evidence in the record for the inquiry to take into  
 3 account in full.  
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